

German held in Iran for 'illegal' ties

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian authorities said Sunday they have arrested a German man for having illegal ties with the military, a phrase they usually use to refer to spying. The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the German was arrested Saturday. He was identified as Gerhard Bachmann. The agency quoted an announcement by the judiciary branch of the armed forces as saying he was held on suspicion of illegal ties with the military, assisting in the disclosure of military information, and bribery. In Bonn, foreign ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann confirmed that a German was arrested in Tehran on Saturday and said the grounds were not yet known. He said the German embassy in Tehran was seeking an explanation for the man's arrest and was trying to arrange for an embassy official to visit him. Mr. Bachmann has lived in Tehran since 1985 and is a prominent member of the German community there, heading a German-Iranian import-export business as well as the German school, reliable sources in Germany said.

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Kaddoumi heads liaison panel talks

CAIRO (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fawzi Kaddoumi will head talks in Cairo on Wednesday to start overhauling Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Egyptian and Israeli diplomats said.

2 Israeli soldiers injured in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded when guerrillas attacked a post of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia in the Jewish state's unilateral South Lebanon "security zone" Sunday, the army said. "In the incident this morning fire was directed at an SLA position and an Israeli army lieutenant and soldier were very lightly wounded. They were taken to hospital for treatment," an Israeli army spokesman said.

Greek Socialists take clear lead

ATHENS (R) — Greek Socialist leader and former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu took a strong lead in national elections Sunday and looked set to return to power after four years in opposition. According to official figures with 14.5 per cent of the vote counted, Mr. Papandreu's PASOK party had 45.7 per cent and the conservative New Democracy Party of Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis had 41.6 per cent (see earlier story on page 8).

U.N. inspectors scour Iraqi desert

BAGHDAD (R) — United Nations arms inspectors left Baghdad for Iraq's western desert in search for what they say are remaining secrets of Iraq's weapons programmes, sources in Baghdad said Sunday. "They are now camped somewhere in the desert. Their mission will take about 10 days," one source said. More than 50 U.N. inspectors under veteran arms expert Nikita Sidorovich are taking part in the desert search, the first intensive survey of the massive desert west of Baghdad.

Libya appeals to Third World not to recognise Israel

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya Sunday appealed to Third World countries not to recognise Israel until a new Palestinian state was created in place of the Jewish state, the official JANA news agency reported. The agency reported that the Foreign Ministry called on "brother countries in the Third World to halt recognition of Israel and reverse their (recognition) decisions which reward the aggressor and encourage (Israel) to continue its aggression," in a statement issued Sunday. The only solution to the Palestinian problem was the return home of the Palestinian diaspora and the creation of a new state, in place of Israel, which could then be recognised, the statement said.

Serb militia assault Belgian U.N. troops

BELGRADE (AFP) — Serb paramilitary troops assaulted U.N. soldiers after refusing to hand over their weapons to Belgian peacekeepers manning a checkpoint in Croatia, a spokesman for the Belgian battalion said Sunday. Members of the Serb group known as the "Tigers" refused to hand over their weapons to the Belgians who were stationed by a bridge crossing the Danube, provoking a scuffle, the spokesman said in a telephone interview. Around 15 to 20 of the "Tigers" confronted the 10 peacekeepers and three of the Belgian troops were attacked, he said. "There was no use of weapons," the spokesman said, adding that the Serb paramilitary had "neutralised" the U.N. soldiers and continued on their way with their weapons but had not taken the Belgians' arms.

PCC meets; focus is on autonomy implementation

From Wafa Amr in Tunis

THE Palestine Central Council (PCC), the PLO's mini-parliament-in-exile, met last night to discuss the PLO-Israeli accord amidst serious concerns over the shape of the future Palestinian self-authority and the process of implementing the rapid transition from a revolution-in-exile to a technocratic authority inside the occupied territories.

In addition to the political challenges, the PLO had to worry about security problems after reportedly foiling a plot to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the arrest and interrogation of several bodyguards, senior PLO leaders said.

The PLO-Israeli autonomy accord in itself was not the centre of discussions in Palestinian circles in Tunis on the eve of the PCC meeting whose

objective was to discuss and endorse the accord. The obvious preoccupation revolved around the actual implementation of the accord and planning for the future.

PLO factions opposing the accord, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and some independents chose to boycott the PCC.

Tens of Palestinians from the occupied territories intended to press the leadership to replace old political terms of reference with professional ones as the only means to achieve maximum gains from the PLO-Israeli accord.

Observers detected a sense of loss among PLO leaders and cadres in Tunis, who have just started to absorb that a new phase in the PLO's history has begun, and that the transition

meant decision-making would be transferred to the occupied territories.

The most pressing concern was how the PLO leadership, reduced to the person of Chairman Arafat, would deal with the new realities. Two factions, FIDA and the Palestinian People's Party, partners of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction in the peace process, are seeking assurances that the new arrangement inside the occupied territories would not exclude them.

"Is Arafat ready to keep the partnership with the old comrades who fought with him for so long in his peace battle? Will there be political tolerance to accept them as partners and would he address their concerns? All these are questions asked by people inside the occupied territories," said Palestinian peace delegate Samir Huleileh.

Senior members of the Palestinian People's Party and from FIDA, from inside and outside the occupied territories, would meet with Fatah on the sidelines of the PCC to discuss future relations and their role in the new arrangements inside the occupied territories.

But even Fatah, whose future role is expected to increase since it would act as the ruling Palestinian self-authority's party, warned against previous terms of reference and monopolised decisions. Local Fatah leaders said there was a consensus inside the occupied territories to start working towards building an entity based on "the sovereignty of law and respect for the opposition."

One Fatah leader from the West Bank said people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were worried about the future

and sought assurances from the exiled PLO leadership that the leadership style that prevailed during the past 26 years will not continue.

"We need an institutionalised leadership. We have overcome the period of proving our loyalty to our leadership, and now is the time to build institutions that will be respected by the leadership," one young local Fatah leader said.

On the other hand, a feeling of loss and demoralisation among some Tunis-based leaders accompanied their realisation that their responsibilities would be handed over to residents of the occupied territories.

"The historic and real test for the PLO leadership, after all these long years of exile and struggle, would be the degree of success in dealing with the new realities once they are among their own people and

inside the occupied territories," said a senior PLO official.

An aide to Mr. Arafat said he sensed a "coup d'etat in Arafat's line of thinking which alarmed my worries."

He said: "The PLO chairman is aware that the seeds of all his struggle would be reaped by adapting to the new phase and changing old ways to more power-sharing and democratisation."

"He has been susceptible to advice and new ideas, and he is accepting criticism," he said. An example was Mr. Arafat's surrender to "warnings" from his Fatah Central Committee members that they would all boycott the PCC meeting if Attallah Attallah (Abu Za'im) attended the PCC. Abu Za'im, who arrived in Tunis on Saturday upon Mr. Arafat's request, was the PLO's security chief in the seventies but later became Mr. Arafat's main opponent by

splitting from the PLO and forming his own group funded by some Arab regimes. Rumours that Abu Za'im was appointed by Mr. Arafat as head of the new Palestinian authority's security fuelled fears of many Palestinians and dashed their hopes for a new thinking among the PLO leadership.

A senior Fatah member said the Fatah Central Committee also succeeded in getting its way by "punishing" Hani Al Hassan by withdrawing his membership as representative of Fatah in the PCC. He was replaced by the PLO's representative in Tunis, Hakam Balawi.

"Fatah's decision was based on its belief that Hassan overstepped the red line by making alliances with the opposition against the PLO, thus departing from Fatah's practices and (Continued on page 16)

2 groups claim Jericho attack; Israel says peace was target

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Two Palestinian groups claimed responsibility Sunday for the slaying of two hikers that cabinet ministers said was aimed at sabotaging the peace process, warning that the killers still at large must not succeed.

"We will not let them kill Israelis and we will not let them kill the peace process," Health Minister Haim Ramon said after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The killings of the two Israeli men was the first fatal Palestinian guerrilla attack on civilians since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a peace accord Sept. 13, although several suicide attacks against buses with explosives-laden cars have failed.

The first claim of responsibility for the attack came from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the PLO peace deal with Israel. It said in a statement that "the operation was made by its forces in the Qalt Valley between Jericho and Jerusalem on Saturday."

"The Popular Front will continue its struggle on all fronts to foil the Gaza-Jericho accord of liquidation until our peoples' aims of self-

determination and an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital are fulfilled," the PFLP statement said.

Mr. Givati said police were looking for four attackers. He denied earlier reports that they escaped in stolen cars from the gorge and that two had been stopped.

Security is the main concern of the Israeli public with the accord, and cabinet ministers sought to calm them while warning that such attacks could be expected.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said there is no longer a war on Israel, but on peace with Israel.

Those who shot our two hikers, tried to harm the effort and the Arab consensus that has a clear majority to make peace with Israel," Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said once the Palestinian police force was in place the two sides would cooperate to prevent such attacks.

"There is a common need on both sides to try to prevent those who are trying to sabotage the peace process," he said.

Talks on implementing the full spectrum of the autonomy according are set to begin Wednesday in four separate

locations. The two sides have until Dec. 13 to negotiate the details of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and

Jericho. Angry Jewish settlers burned tires and blockaded the Jerusalem-Jericho highway to protest the murders.

"When will this sad story end?" settler leader Aharon Domb said at the barricades.



A Jewish settler flashing V-signs and masked with stockings, passes burning tyres which block the road Jerusalem-Jericho early Sunday. The settlers blocked the roads and stoned Arab cars, protesting the killing of two Israeli hikers in the Jericho area (AFP photo)

Jericho. Angry Jewish settlers burned tires and blockaded the Jerusalem-Jericho highway to protest the murders.

"When will this sad story end?" settler leader Aharon Domb said at the barricades.

Bhutto vows to form cabinet or call for fresh elections

Combined agency dispatches

LAHORE, Pakistan — Former Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto said Sunday her party would form Pakistan's next government or new elections would have to be called.

"Let me state categorically that if the PPP (Pakistan Peoples Party) does not form government at the centre, then no other party will be able to form a government there."

"If for any reason the PPP does not, then a fresh poll has to be called," she told journalists here.

Ms. Bhutto was speaking after the closeness of the final results announced Sunday in two-tiered national and provincial polls left the country and the state — in the words of more than one national television commentator "in the hands of indecision."

Some called the thin margin between Ms. Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, also a former premier and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), a new political crisis

and some like Ms. Bhutto saw the possibility of yet another election.

The election commission said Ms. Bhutto's PPP had swept 94 seats, and its allied Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo 18 seats for a total of 112 in the crucial 240 seat Punjab assembly.

But Mr. Sharif alone took 106 seats in Punjab, his home province. And was bent on trying to form a government there with the help of independents and smaller parties who netted 17 and five seats respectively.

The results were a mirror-image of national polls Wednesday which gave Ms. Bhutto an 86-72 edge, but left her facing the prospect of a weak government and a strong opposition, and by her own admission, far short of the two-thirds majority she would need to govern effectively.

"Both sides are equally poised and making efforts to win over support," said a Sharif aide in Islamabad.

Aides of both former pre-

miers confirmed that the hectic search for allies and wooing of independents was on behind closed doors. But the mood was upbeat in Ms. Bhutto's camp after the unexpectedly heavy inroads she made into Mr. Sharif's Punjab bastion in Saturday's provincial polls.

Ms. Bhutto, whose charisma and family name give her a head start over rivals, said she would telephone Sharif later in the day to ask him to play a role in opposition.

Diplomats said Ms. Bhutto appeared to be in a strong position to form a coalition national government when the lower house convenes later this week.

Mr. Sharif's party maintained the Punjab result was still in the balance, giving a hung provincial parliament.

"It's a hung situation like the centre and much will depend on the independents," said PML chief organiser Sartaj Aziz. "These hung parliaments are a recipe for disaster in politics and the economy.... look at the mess we are in."

Israel may ease curbs on entry to Jerusalem

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Sunday Israel might ease six-month-old restrictions on Palestinian access to occupied Jerusalem.

"The Palestinians asked to ease the entrance of Palestinians to the city," Mr. Shahal told reporters. "If it will be possible without endangering security, I will certainly have a positive attitude."

Mr. Shahal consulted with officials on the subject, but differed with them on the policy to adopt for secret talks with Palestinian officials on the issue.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, said he favoured easing Palestinian access to the city in order to improve the lives of the 150,000 Arabs in the Holy City.

Mr. Shahal, seeking Mr. Kollek's opinion prior to his meeting with Palestinian peace negotiator Faisal Hussein, said Jerusalem should not be singled out for a special policy.

Mr. Shahal's meeting with Mr. Hussein comes at the request of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Palestinians have demanded that with the recent autonomy accord, the link be restored between the rest of the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem. It is the centre of Arab politics, culture and health services.

Most of the two million Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza have been barred from entering Israel, and Jerusalem, since March, Israel sealed off the territories to quell a wave of attacks by Palestinians against Israelis.

"I am in favour of easing these restrictions as long as there is no negative effect on security," said Mr. Kollek, who faces a tough re-election bid in three weeks.

The lawyers rejected the Libyan statement. "This attempt by the Libyan government to interfere with the advice given to the two men is totally unacceptable," they said.

"The legal advisers wish to emphasise that they represent Abdel Baset and Al Amin and do not represent Libya. In their endeavours to perform their duties, professional ethics dictate that any advice given to their clients is aimed to reflect and protect their individual and personal interests and rights in law," the statement added.

Lockerbie lawyers reject surrender of suspects

TUNIS (R) — Lawyers for two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie aircraft bombing Sunday rejected demands that their clients stand trial in Scotland or the United States, citing legal obstacles.

The lawyers' statement came after Britain and the United States put forward a U.N. Security Council resolution to tighten sanctions imposed in April 1992 due to Libya's failure to hand over the men.

They are suspected of bombing a U.S. Jumbo jet over the Scottish village of Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people.

After a two-day meeting in Tripoli, which the suspects on occasion attended, the lawyers

rejected as "unacceptable" a Libyan government statement earlier this month encouraging the men to stand trial in Scotland if they wished.

The government has refused to set a date to hand over Abdel Baset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah.

"Grave concern was expressed over the possible prejudicial effect on potential jurors of pre-trial publicity in the U.S. and Scotland," the lawyers said in a statement.

"Also, in the absence of normal extradition procedures, the refusal of the prosecution authorities to disclose the evidence upon which they intend

to rely at any trial, seriously undermines the advisers' ability to prepare the case properly," they added.

"Following the decision taken at the meetings, the legal advisers intend in the immediate future to contact both the foreign office in the U.K. and the State Department in the U.S. to discuss future progress," they said.

Tripoli, which has refused to hand over the two suspects, said on Oct. 1 it was "prepared to receive a group of competent judicial Scottish officials... to interview the suspects, their families and their lawyers, as well as to join efforts to persuade them to

appear before a Scottish court."

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Heavy artillery duel shakes west Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Kabul's western suburbs were lashed by a storm of heavy weapons fire Sunday morning as two factions clashed, with more than 30 civilians and an unknown number of gunmen injured.

One tank shell smashed through a steel-reinforced concrete wall of a ward in the Dasht-e-Barchi first-aid clinic in west Kabul, killing two and wounding three.

"It was morning visiting time when the shell struck. It killed one of the patients and one visitor, and wounded the second patient and two other visitors," said Dr. Said Hussein Ali Parwar, pointing to the remains of the twisted tank shell lying on the clinic floor amid the blood-stained rubble.

The south Kabul Karte Se hospital, which is financed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), had already dealt with by mid-morning 10 out-patients and 11 admissions, one of whom died.

The relatively low number of civilian casualties in the fighting that started early Sunday and finished at noon is due to the fact that most of the bombardment was between military posts on the edge of civilian areas.

The clashes were between two different ethnic groups: The Hazara Shi'ite Hezbe-Wahdat and the Pushtun Sunni Ittihad-e-Islami.

Many civilian houses in the Wahdat-controlled Dasht-e-Barchi area were hit by long-range rockets at the same time as Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani left Kabul on a state visit to Saudi Arabia.

One wing of a Hazara house in Dasht-e-Barchi was demolished by a missile which tore holes through the roof and walls, blasting out windows and heavily damaging the interior.

A young boy said he survived the blast by sheltering in an underground bunker with the other 24 members of his family when the early morning bombardment started. No one was injured.

"I excused myself from school today to help clear up this mess," the boy said, as he attempted to clear rubble with a straw broom.

His father said that although

a special commission had been appointed to pay compensation for houses destroyed in the factional clashes, the amounts were much lower than the reconstruction costs.

"They pay only for the replacement of windows. But my total costs will be more than 10 times this amount," he said.

Flanking Dasht-e-Barchi on the westernmost outskirts of Kabul, in the near-deserted Khusht Mena suburb, Ittihad fighters were seen firing salvoes at Wahdat from a jeep-mounted multi-barrel rocket launcher.

Wahdat replied with mortar and rocket fire, some of it directed against posts of Defence Ministry troops occupying the western mountain range of Kabul, sending giant plumes of smoke and dust skywards.

The troops, loyal to Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, did not get involved in the exchange, but stayed neutral.

The Ittihad claimed Prime Minister Hezmatullah's Pushtun Hezbe-e-Islami were aiding Wahdat in these clashes, which have been gaining intensity over the past two weeks.

"Masoud is not helping us because he wants to see the Pushtuns annihilate each other," said an Ittihad spokesman.

Ittihad and Mr. Masoud's forces are nominal allies against the combined forces of Wahdat and Hezbe-e-Islami, which control the bulk of south and western Kabul.

From the far south of Kabul, Wahdat could be seen firing rockets at an Ittihad position on a strategic hill, from which the Dasht-e-Barchi clinic was shelled.

Ittihad claimed Wahdat had tried a night assault in order to capture the hill but had been repulsed.

In a written statement, an Ittihad spokesman telephoned journalists in Kabul warning of a new Shi'ite alliance against Ittihad, saying they had declared a religious war against the Sunni sect.

The other Wahdat ally is the Shi'ite Harakat-e-Islami faction led by Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, who returned to Kabul last Friday after medical treatment overseas.

On Wednesday Mr. Rabin travelled to Shanghai, where Israel has gained permission to open a consulate. He is due to leave on Thursday.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said this week that Mr. Rabin was likely to make a surprise stop in Malaysia despite a lack of official ties. A spokesman for Mr. Rabin said he knew nothing of it.

Israeli President Chaim Herzog visited China in December 1992 and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres came in May.

Rabin in Peking

PEKING (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived in Peking on Sunday, beginning an official visit to cement fresh diplomatic ties and open the way for China to play a greater role in the Middle East.

Mr. Rabin, the first Israeli prime minister to visit China since the two sides opened official relations 22 months ago, was greeted by Agriculture Minister Liu Jilang when he arrived by special Israeli airforce jet.

Mr. Rabin's official programme begins on Monday with a welcoming ceremony hosted by Premier Li Peng. The four-day trip will include the signing of a joint agreement on regular air links and talks with Chinese leaders.

For Peking, the trip is an important sign that it is adopting a more balanced approach to Middle Eastern affairs.

China, which in January 1992 became the last of the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members to forge ties with Israel, has long been a close political ally of the Arab World.

China will be the first non-Middle Eastern country Mr. Rabin has visited since the signing of the landmark peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington last month, as it was for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat several weeks ago.

Both leaders are anxious to ensure that China sides with Arabs who back the deal, diplomats say.

Mr. Rabin, who doubles as defence minister, will also meet Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian, underscoring persistent rumours of secret Israeli arms sales.

The reports date back many years before the establishment of formal relations, but neither side will discuss them.

In the realm of open diplomacy, Peking will host multilateral talks on water usage in the Middle East from Oct. 26 to 28 to help show it is taking an active role in tackling the region's problems, diplomats said.

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Supporters of Mohammad Farah Aided demonstrate for peace, in Mogadishu Sunday, one day after the fugitive Somali warlord called for a cease fire in his militia's attacks on U.N. forces (AFP photo)

Somalia mission took several wrong turns

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of the first signs that Somalia risked becoming a quagmire for the U.S. military came even before President George Bush sent in the Marines last December. A once-secret diplomatic cable from the U.S. ambassador to Kenya advised the president not to embrace the Somali warlord.

The ambassador's point was to leave Somalia to its own devices, even though famine had killed tens of thousands and it looked as if two million more might die.

The advice was rebuffed. But as Americans look back at 10 months of bloody and frustrating U.S. military involvement in Somalia, the ambassador's message serves as a vivid reminder of how dangerous the mission was from the start.

"Somalis... are natural-born guerrillas," wrote Smith Hempstone, U.S. ambassador to Kenya at the time. "They will lay ambushes. They will launch hit-and-run attacks. They will not be able to stop the (humanitarian) convoys from getting through. But they will inflict and take — casualties."

They did lay ambushes. The deadliest — in which 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed June 5 while guarding a food distribution centre in the Somali capital of Mogadishu — was one of the turning points in the Somalia saga.

One week after that assault — which U.N. and U.S. officials blamed on forces loyal to Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aided — American-led U.N. troops began retaliation raids against General Aided's militia.

The violence rode an upward escalator, and U.S. forces never were able to get off.

That was not the way it was supposed to go. And Defence Secretary Les Aspin admitted as much after President Bill Clinton announced Thursday that more emphasis would be placed on achieving a political reconciliation in Somalia before U.S. troops withdraw.

On Friday, Mr. Clinton signalled that he would be willing to drop a demand for Gen. Aided's capture if he agreed to a ceasefire. U.S. special envoy Robert B. Oakley, dispatched to Ethiopia on Thursday, was given a wide range of instructions aimed at ending the fighting in Somalia, according to administration officials.

They included the overtone to Gen. Aided, one official said on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Aided on Saturday reportedly ordered his troops to stop attacking peacekeepers and indicated he wanted an end to the bloodshed, the Cable News Network reported.

The mission that Mr. Bush defined in December when he ordered 1,800 Marines to land on the beaches outside Mogadishu had seemed simple: Ensure that emergency food supplies get through to the starving.

At first, things went relatively smoothly. Food convoys began moving, the starvation began receding. And few Americans noticed when 23-year-old Marine Domingo Arroyo became the first U.S. casualty. He was killed Jan. 12 by Somali

gunmen in an attack near Mogadishu's airport.

Although Operation Restore Hope, as the mission was called, did not proceed as quickly as Mr. Bush had predicted, the United States on May 4 handed over command to the United Nations.

That, too, was a turning point. The American military presence was reduced, from a peak in January of about 25,000 to about 4,000 by May. And only about 1,100 U.S. combat forces were kept there. The rest were communications and logistics specialists.

Then came the killing of the 24 Pakistani, and the decision by the United Nations to put a bounty on Gen. Aided's head. The focus became Gen. Aided, and the U.N. mission became one of rebuilding Somalia — economically and politically — without Gen. Aided.

The U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 837, which authorised U.N. forces to use their firepower to make the "arrest and detention for prosecution, trial and punishment" of "those responsible" for the June 5 attack.

"It just became a question of whose military was winning, rather than a more balanced approach that stressed the importance of resolving the political problems which lay at the core of Somalia's civil strife," said Peter Rodman, a National Security Council staffer in the Bush and Reagan White Houses.

It had been expected that the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia, comprised of troops from nearly 30 countries, could cope with the

Aided forces without relying heavily on American firepower. But it did not turn out that way.

Public outrage rose when four U.S. soldiers were killed Aug. 8 in a bomb blast in Mogadishu. The Pentagon and State Department blamed Gen. Aided's men.

Four days later, Mr. Clinton sent to Somalia a contingent of 400 Army Rangers trained in attacks on political targets and a variety of other tactics of unconventional warfare. Their orders: Capture Gen. Aided.

The American public began wondering: What happened to the humanitarian mission? Is this war? How many more American soldiers will be killed before it is over?

The administration sought to counter the impression of an open-ended commitment in Somalia.

Mr. Aspin, in an Aug. 27 speech, said U.S. combat troops would withdraw once three aims were met: Establish "reasonable security" in Mogadishu, get heavy weapons out of the hands of the rival warlords, and set up credible Somali police forces.

None of those goals has been met yet, but at least 15 U.S. soldiers were killed and 77 wounded in a firefight in Mogadishu on Oct. 3 — and the corpse of one American soldier dragged through the streets by cheering Somalis — the Clinton administration decided it had to do more than hope for an early exit. The president announced Thursday that U.S. troops would leave no later than March 31.

'Personal chemistry' crucial for peace deal

By Lars Foyen
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Good personal chemistry, a disregard for history and an ample supply of wine and whisky were key factors behind the Middle East peace deal, two of the Israeli negotiators say.

Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak, historians whose secret talks in Norway with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials paved the way for the pact between two former arch-foes, told Denmark's national press club that the "human factor" was essential for the deal.

"It shows that individuals can play a key role in history," Mr. Pundak said.

"Even if the historic timing is right, nothing will move if the people don't hit it off. We were a small group of good people and we were lucky."

The Israelis' talks with senior PLO official Ahmad Qureih and a Palestinian legal adviser were conducted partly at the home and farmhouse of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst, beginning last January.

"The first meeting was very emotional. We all knew we were attempting to do something historic. Our attitude was to see the PLO officials simply as human beings, not as terrorists, foes or people under occupation," Mr. Pundak said.

Mr. Hirschfeld, a Haifa University Arabist, said it was crucial to avoid the normal pitfall of Arab-Israeli talks — conflicting interpretations of Middle East history.

"We decided to look at the conflict today and how we could move forward," he said.

"Maybe it is ironic that we are historians. But one of the most important lessons of history is that you cannot learn very much from it. I never tell my students that."

Mr. Hirschfeld said another decisive factor behind the deal on mutual recognition and Palestinian self-rule was a strong desire by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to end 40 years of public service by handing over a peaceful Middle East to coming generations.

The Oslo meetings, involving enormous political risk, were later formalised through the participation of Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The Norway setting was established through Mr. Hirschfeld's contacts with the country over a research project.

Mr. Holst and his family provided a pleasant, informal atmosphere with excellent food and wine, but Norway's role was not as a formal mediator, Mr. Hirschfeld and Mr. Pundak said.

"It was not a three-party negotiation. They were not in the room when we sat at the fireplace late at night, drinking their wine or whisky," Mr. Pundak said.

Norway made an important contribution partly through its self-restraint, realising the point was that the talks must be direct. They also played an important role as intermediary towards the end. We owe them a lot," Mr. Hirschfeld said.

Mr. Pundak said: "On the one hand, Norway played a very important role. On the other hand, its role has been exaggerated in the media."

He added: "New talks will be open, unlike the Oslo channel. Everybody will go to the press with their differences. CNN will be there to bring every snag into the open."

WFP announces food aid for Gaza Strip

AMMAN (I.T.) — The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced it will provide food aid to 140,000 of the poorest Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip. The \$3.5 million project is the first tangible development support for Palestinians in the occupied territories by the United Nations since the signing of the recent peace accords in the region, a WFP press release said.

"It is critical that poor families are assisted during this period of transition," said WFP executive director, Catherine Bertini, who approved the project. "WFP's assistance is part of the U.N.'s overall effort to enhance the economic and social development of the poorest Palestinian families."

According to the WFP, many people living in the Gaza Strip and not classified as refugees can no longer afford to buy the basic daily food they need because the economy of the area has virtually collapsed in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the more recent tightening of security restrictions by Israel which have prevented the movement of workers, goods and services in and out of Gaza.

15 years after revolution, Iran plagued by corruption

By Laurent Maillard
Agence France Presse

TEHRAN — Almost 15 years after a revolution which sought to root out massive corruption in Iran, the country is once again plagued by the problem and bribery is widely practiced in government offices.

Bribery, one of the greatest vices listed by Islam and once associated with high-ranking officials in the Shah's regime, has become a "widespread practice and a daily necessity" in Iran, a newspaper warned this week.

Kayhan, the largest-circulation newspaper here, has been running a lengthy series in the past two weeks on bribery in Iran, warning that the practice was in danger of becoming an integral part of Iranian culture.

"Committing bribery has become a commonplace practice in government offices and people have no choice but to offer bribes as the only means to get through the bureaucratic maze and to secure a service," it said.

Bribes could be needed to speed up issuing a birth certificate, to obtain large-denomination notes from a bank, and to secure a plane or long-distance bus ticket — and they could even be solicited by police officers to ignore traffic violations.

Bribes have also been asked by officials in public schools and municipalities in the name of "voluntary assistance," and been demanded as "commissions" in government organisations.

Ironically, it was the large-scale and often blatant corruption of government officials and their commercial associates that was seen as one of the root causes of the 1979 revolution which overthrew the pro-western Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The Iranian parliament, in a bid to head off corruption, ruled in May to bar government officials from accepting business commissions from foreign trade partners.

Religious officials have voiced concern over the issue, although clergymen have been implicated in fraud scandals.

Ayatollah Javad Amoli, an influential religious figure from the central city of Qom, warned earlier this year about the scale of corruption in government offices in Iran.

"Bribery is a plague to the revolution and could threaten Islamic values and the regime," he said.

Iran's new Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati has also been focusing in his speeches on the subject of corruption in municipalities and vowed to tackle the problem.

Kayhan daily said the entire staff of a municipality were recently replaced following investigations into corruption charges against its mayor.

The paper also reported that the mayor of Tehran's 18th district along with his two deputies had been arrested on charges of taking over \$100,000 in bribes. The mayor was later acquitted of charges, but his co-defendants each received two years in jail.

Corruption has also tainted the court system, leading to the dismissal of some judges last spring, and several fraud

cases relating to clergymen have so far been publicised.

In August, a chief prosecutor in charge of a revolutionary court in the northern city of Rasht committed suicide after learning that his financial misdeeds had been disclosed.

According to observers, the rise in corruption could largely be attributed to economic liberalisation in the past several years and the fall in the public's living standards.

An average employee in Iran makes around \$80 per month, while prices, except those of certain items, have been soaring to conform to international standards.

"When people's basic needs are not met then they will have to resort to alternative means to make ends meet," Kayhan said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 ... Les Aventuriers de L'Espace
18:00 ... Omniscreens
18:30 ... Magway
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... The weekly sport magazine
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Delta
21:10 ... The House of Eliott
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... The Chancer

PRAYER TIMES
04:15 ... Fajr
05:30 ... (Sunrise) Duha
11:25 ... Dhuhur
14:40 ... Asr
17:14 ... Maghrib
18:31 ... Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresianum Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625341

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 625543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625250.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail, and winds will be northwesterly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 34
Deserts 12 / 31
Jordan Valley 20 / 34

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 28, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mawri 794788
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Dr. Mohammad Ounran 612232
Dr. Mohammad Labadie 633385
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Naiwaki pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeical pharmacy 637660
Naiwaki pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalil 277757
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Alzaim Haidad 985530
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Calls Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Safety Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 122
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 623652
Mahas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeical 664114
Shmeical Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843645
Al-Muassad Hospital 667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muassad 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/28
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 612240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Beerna Hospital (02)275553
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Faya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Senas (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:40 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
17:30 Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:40 Bangkok (RJ)
19:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
23:45 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Khartoum (SD)
08:30 Aden (Y)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Amsterdam (KL)
17:40 Frankfurt (LH)
19:35 Cairo (MS)
20:10 Vienna (OS)
20:45 Dubai (EM)
08:00 Khartoum (SD)
08:35 Amsterdam (KL)

HAJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:40 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Saturday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Saturday

MARKET PRICES
Underpaw price in fils per kg.
Apple 650/550
Banana 620
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Beans 800 / 900
Cabbage 150 / 170
Carrot 300/240
Cauliflower 350 / 250
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 200
Eggplant 280 / 200
Garlic 1000 / 600
Grapes 300/240
Guava 450 / 350
Lemon 220 / 160
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Mushrooms 240 / 170
Mulukhia 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 250 / 200
Pepper (hot) 280 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 200
Potato 120 / 80
Tomato 400 / 300
Spinach 300 / 240

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
06:00 Khartoum (SD)
08:30 Aden (Y)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Amsterdam (KL)
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Guava 450 / 350
Lemon 220 / 160
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 400 / 300
Mushrooms 240 / 170
Mulukhia 250 / 200
Onion (dry) 250 / 200
Pepper (hot) 280 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 200
Potato 120 / 80
Tomato 400 / 300
Spinach 300 / 240

Three separate visits by German officials expected within a month

AMMAN (J.T.) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel is due to pay a visit to Jordan on Nov. 3, according to an official announcement. During his brief stay Mr. Kinkel is scheduled to hold talks with senior government officials involved with the Middle East peace process and the general situation in the region, the announcement said.

Also, on Oct. 20-21 a joint delegation of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Ministry for Economics and the Foreign Office will hold government negotiations with the Ministry of Planning in Amman, according to a statement by the German embassy in Jordan.

The delegation will be headed by the director general of the ministry for economic cooperation, Winfried Fuchs, said the statement.

The annual negotiations, held alternatively in Bonn and Amman, target future German development projects in Jordan.

German-Jordanian cooperation with respect to development aid is now entering its 34th year and has been very successful so far, said the embassy.

At present Germany is implementing more than 10 projects, mostly in the fields of water, sewerage, agriculture and irrigation.

The budget for German financial aid is DM35 million annually and DM16 million for technical aid, the statement said.

More than 15 long-term experts are seconded to these projects, assisted by several short-term experts, it added.

Another embassy statement announced the coming visit of the German federal minister of education and science, Rainer Ortleb, to the Kingdom on Oct. 28. Dr. Ortleb is expected to meet with high-ranking officials for political talks.

He will also hold talks with Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari on bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and science.

Minister denies reports of U.S. request to alter anti-Israeli references in school textbooks

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Education Khaled Al Omari has denied reports that the ministry had received a request from the U.S. to delete anti-Israeli references in Jordanian school textbooks.

Mr. Omari, speaking through a spokeswoman, flatly said "no" when asked whether the government had received any official or unofficial note to this effect.

"What has been reported is not true," he said without elaboration.

According to the report, carried by an international news agency, the purported request came from the U.S. State Department. The report quoted an unidentified Jordanian official as saying that "the letter asks Jordan to embark on confidence-building measures after it has formalised an agenda for negotiations with Israel."

The official said the one-page letter suggested the first measure could be "the deletion of anti-Israeli references in the curriculum at Jordanian schools, colleges and universities."

U.S. diplomats in Amman said they were not aware of any such communication. The reported letter was said to have been sent immediately after Jordan and Israel signed an agenda outlining the principles for a peace agreement on Sept. 14.

Mr. Omari was quoted in the local press as saying last week that the Jordanian curriculum was approved at a National Conference on Education held in 1989, and it was not likely that it would be revised before the year 2000.

Munther Al Masri, under-secretary at the ministry of

education, also said that the Council of Education was the authorised body to propose amendments to curricula.

"No discussions have taken place in this regard (of deleting anti-Israeli references), and no linkage has been made between the Jordanian curricula and the peace process," Mr. Masri was quoted as saying in a local Arabic-language press last Thursday.

Israel is described as the "Zionist entity," "the Jewish enemy," and "the usurper of Arab lands" in some Jordanian textbooks on history and sociology. However, such descriptions have been in all Arab school textbooks since the early 1950s, academicians noted.

The reported U.S. request appeared to have touched off raw nerves among some Jordanians who believe that Israel is not serious in its declared objective of comprehensive peace with the Arabs and is in fact seeking normalisation of relations with the Arab states without actually meeting the requirements of peace.

As such, the critics of the peace process found a new avenue to augment their contentions by arguing that Israel was behind the purported U.S. move to request Jordan to amend its curriculum.

They also cited public statements by American officials, including President Bill Clinton himself, calling on the Arab states to end the 43-year-old economic boycott of Israel to strengthen their argument that the Jewish state was already pressing for normalisation of relations before entering comprehensive peace settlement with the Arab parties involved in the two-year-old negotiations.

Majali cautions civil servants against campaigning at office

IRBID (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday visited Irbid governorate and told a meeting of senior officials there that government employees should be cautioned against promoting candidates in the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections during office hours.

The government will take appropriate measures to prevent civil servants from interfering in the elections, said the prime minister at a meeting with governor Fayez Abbadi and members of the governorate's Executive Council.

Commenting on Mr.

Abbadi's report on Irbid governorate's preparations for the elections, Dr. Majali said the government will ensure that the elections will be fair and successful.

Mr. Abbadi had reviewed the arrangements for the November polls, indicating that voting cards will be distributed as of the beginning of next week.

He said that election centres have been set up and 90 committees have been set up to count votes.

In his address to the meeting Dr. Majali said that the government seeks to widen the base of public participa-

tion in solving issues and problems.

Every employee in the public sector should regard himself/herself as a partner in the decision making process, he said.

The Prime Minister briefly reviewed the government's measures to improve the country's economic conditions and discussed several domestic issues as well as pan-Arab affairs.

Earlier, the director of Social Development Department in Irbid, Mahmoud Shboul, reviewed his office's programmes to assist needy citizens and the handicapped.



A scene from a polling booth during the Nov. 8, 1989 elections to Parliament (file photo)

Prime minister to convey Kingdom's stand on Israeli ruling to envoys

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following Jordan's denunciation of an Israeli court ruling on the status of the holy shrines, including the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, in Jerusalem, as an infringement on Arab and Muslim legal and historic rights, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday will hold a meeting with the ambassadors of foreign countries in Jordan to further explain the Kingdom's position.

Jordan Saturday officially denounced the court ruling on the status of the holy shrines in a note distributed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi to the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries at a meeting held in his office.

The Israeli high court ruled Sept. 23, 1993, that Al Haram Al Sharif — which embodies the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock — is part of the "land of Israel" and hence subject to Israeli laws and regulations concerning construction work, archaeology and free access of places of worship, the note said.

An announcement Sunday said that Dr. Majali will convey to the foreign envoys the official Jordanian stand with regard to the Israeli court ruling passed on Sept. 23 and its impact on the restoration programmes at the holy shrines.

Minister Abbadi told ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries that Jordan was ignoring the ruling of the

Israeli court which, he said, has no jurisdiction over holy places; and instructed a committee charged with carrying out the restoration programme to go ahead as scheduled.

Jordan's position drew backing from Arab and Islamic country envoys who said that they consider Israel's move as very dangerous and defying the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Mohammad Hussein, charge d'affaires at the Iranian embassy here, Sunday said that his country would never recognise the Jewish state and subsequently does not recognise any of the Israeli government's decisions.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Muslims have a duty to foil all of Israel's measures against the holy

places. Denunciation of the Israeli move also came in statements by the Turkish, Indonesian and Pakistani ambassadors, who said the move adversely affects the Middle East peace process.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said that the Israeli court ruling, which considered the holy places as part of the Israeli estates, represented Zionism's persistence on perpetuating aggression on Arab and Islamic lands.

Since 1967 when the Zionists annexed Jerusalem and occupied Palestinian lands, Israeli leaders have been striving to implement a plan aimed at demolishing Al Aqsa Mosque in order to construct a Jewish temple in its place, charged

Hamas. While condemning the court ruling, Hamas said it blamed Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership, which it said, have contributed towards helping the Zionists achieve their end in the occupied Arab territories.

It cited the Arab countries' participation in the peace process as being a major contribution towards endorsing Israel's occupation and a tacit approval of Israel's annexation of the holy city and its Judaisation of the Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

Also Sunday, the General Islamic Conference for Bait Al Maqdes (Jerusalem) called on Islamic and Arab organisations and people to contribute to

defending Al Aqsa Mosque. In a statement issued Sunday, the conference said Islamic and Christian holy places have never been encroached upon, except during the era of Israeli occupation of the holy Arab city.

It said the Israeli court ruling was a serious Israeli attempt to interfere in Islamic Waqf and Al Aqsa Mosque affairs.

The conference also sent an urgent memorandum to United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali, calling on him to intervene immediately to avert the Israeli ruling.

The conference sent copies of the memorandum to the secretaries general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Arab League.

Ministry to set up home for 50 senior citizens

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development will set up a modern home for 50 senior citizens in the Amman region and will support any similar projects by the private sector, Minister of Social Development Mohammad al-Sqour said Sunday.

Addressing a ceremony held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein for the inauguration of a senior citizens home established by the private sector, Dr. Sqour said that more homes for the elderly are planned by the ministry in other governorates.

The private home, known as the Amman Home for the

Care of Senior Citizens, is a modern facility that accommodates 40 people who are looked after by a physician and a team of nurses.

According to Ahmad Helayel, secretary general of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, who attended the ceremony, the non-profit project was carried out by three Jordanian benefactors who preferred anonymity.

He told the Jordan Times that the project, which cost JD 250,000, is located near the Jubilee Circle at the end of Wasfi Tel Street (formerly Gardens Street).

Only those senior citizens who can afford to are asked to

pay minimal fees for the services and accommodations, explained Dr. Helayel.

The three benefactors, he added, will cover the operational costs and also set up similar projects in other parts of Jordan.

Dr. Helayel said they have also provided a bus for the elderly to be taken on outings and installed all modern conveniences for the comfort of the guests.

Prince Abdullah toured the various sections and was briefed on the services.

The new home has a clinic, dormitories, and a living hall with a home-like atmosphere and supervisors and attendants to care for the senior residents.



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein Sunday is briefed on the facilities and services of the newly established Amman Home for the Care of Senior Citizens (Petra photo)

Italian envoy, officials inspect hospital construction in Karak

KARAK (Petra) — The 120-bed hospital under construction at Karak in southern Jordan is one result of close cooperation between Italy and Jordan and reflects the strong ties of friendship between the two nations, Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini said here Sunday.

In reviewing several development projects financed by the Italian government, Mr. Bettini said the Italian hospital in Karak is one of the oldest hospitals to be set up outside Italy by the government in Rome.

It is hoped, said the ambassador, that the two countries will pursue efforts towards further cooperation for the benefit of their people.

Ambassador Bettini was speaking during an inspection visit he made to the construction site in Karak, in the company of the ministers of Health, Communications and Postal Affairs, Public Works and Housing, and Transportation.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said work on the hospital, which started in August, will take at least 12

months to complete.

The hospital is expected to open to patients by early 1995. The Italian government is funding and supervising technical and construction works by an Italian and a Jordanian company jointly.

It is also providing experts and designs for the project.

The hospital will include units for surgery, internal diseases, gynaecology and obstetrics, paediatrics, intensive care, emergency and first aid sections, laboratories, a pharmacy and affiliated services.

ESCWA, FAO join forces to ensure region's food security

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) are joining forces to raise the socio-economic standards of people in the rural areas of the Arab World in order to help ensure food security for the Arab people, according to ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji.

In addition, the two U.N. agencies are trying to tackle rural women's issues, improve infrastructure services in rural regions and encourage agro-industries, said Mr. Bakjaji at the opening of an ESCWA-affiliated expert group meeting at Amman Philadelphia Hotel Sunday.

The meeting has been called to allow experts representing 13 ESCWA member-countries to study and adopt proposals and recommendations regarding the improvement of rural development policies and programmes and initiate coordination and cooperation between Western Asian countries in the field of rural development activities.

As part of the developing world, Dr. Bakjaji said, the rural parts of the Arab World are the least developed areas.

He said the gap between urban and rural regions has led to social instability and has retarded rural development in many of the region's countries.

Nonetheless, added the ESCWA official, recently there appeared very encouraging and positive moves in some ESCWA countries, namely counter-migration from urban to rural areas. This has come about largely because of the soaring cost of living in the cities, added Dr. Bakjaji.

Noting that ESCWA has

been particularly involved in social development in the rural regions, Dr. Bakjaji said national governments ought to encourage counter-migration by initiating development schemes so that more people are attracted to rural regions and thus can contribute to their development.

He said narrowing the gap between rural and urban regions constitutes a major challenge to numerous countries as they approach the 21st century.

The meeting will review and assess national experiences in planning and implementation of rural development programmes and projects in the ESCWA countries, according

to the ESCWA office here. The main emphasis, it said, will be on rural development planning methodology and methods of policy formulation, the structure of rural development institutions, a follow up and evaluation of implementation of rural development projects.

Altogether, 22 experts from the countries taking part in the three-day meeting will review at least 14 working papers, said ESCWA.

Several regional and international institutions are represented at the meeting, including FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), among others.



Albert Abela Jordan branch holds reception

Under the patronage of Mr. Bahjat Al Talhouni, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Al Isra University — which has more than 1,500 students and staff, — the Albert Abela Jordan Branch held a reception at the university's cafeteria which was also attended by the university officials as shown in the picture.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Photographic exhibition by artist Ahmad Al Smadi at the Yarmouk University Student Affairs Deanship — Irbid.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mrs. Lucy Marjo, Janine Saaf, and Tete Wegelius at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Desert Rituals" by Egyptian artist Mona Ra'ouk at the Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Baladina Art Gallery in Al Fuhais.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mimar at the Orfali Art Gallery. Telephone 826932.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwchdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "House of Wax" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ Dr. Mohammad Rabieh, political scientist, on "The Clinton administration and the PLO," at the World Affairs Council at 6 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "The Mosaic Map of Madaba" by professor Dr. Herbert Donner at the Friends of Archaeology at 7:00 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali urges response to correspondence

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday called on all ministries and government departments to respond to any correspondence addressed to them within three weeks. In a communique addressed to all government institutions, Dr. Majali stressed the need for responding to such correspondence promptly so that action can be taken immediately. The prime minister's communique was triggered by the delay in answering queries and responding to correspondence.

RSS to hold renewable energy conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is chairman of the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST), the 4th Arab International Solar Energy Conference will be held here on Nov. 21. Taking part in the conference will be representatives of Arab and Islamic organisations and Arab and international experts on solar and renewable energy. Participants will discuss more than 100 working papers presented by representatives from 35 countries. The five-day conference, which is being organised by the Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Renewable Energy Research Centre, aims to brief participants on the latest technology in the field of renewable energy and means of sharing it.

Morocco, Jordan to conclude new trade deal

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Sunday received a Moroccan economic delegation and discussed with them means of enhancing trade and economic relations between Jordan and Morocco. The delegation has already concluded with its Jordanian counterpart a trade agreement which will replace a 1978 agreement. The new deal will be concluded today (Monday). Attached to the agreement are protocols, designed to ensure its implementation in the best interest of both peoples.

Funding groups ready to help Zarqa basin project

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Sunday met with a delegation representing the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Islamic Development Bank. Dr. Kamal stressed the importance of carrying out the Zarqa Basin Development Project. The delegation said it was ready to support and carry out the timely implementation of the project.

Phosphate production down, potash up

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's production of crude phosphates dropped from 6.6 million tonnes in 1989 to 4.3 million tonnes in 1990. Potash production has increased from 15,000 tonnes in 1984 to 1.5 million in 1990.

Jordan Times

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 منشور يومي سياسي عربي مستقل في اللغة الإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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Jordan Times advertising department.

Remedy to apathy

IT IS very difficult to ascertain the notion held by many observers that Jordanians are in general apathetic towards the forthcoming elections. Yet it is not hard to agree with those observers on the factors that might lead to a low turnout on polling day, Nov. 8.

The euphoria created by the King's decision, back in 1989, to restore parliamentary elections has indeed withered away over the last four years. The initial expectations that a free and fair Parliament would solve problems of the country were unrealistic to begin with and they proved unrealistic anyway. People, especially those who rose against price hikes in 1989 in the south, had hoped that democracy would be a panacea for unemployment and poverty. Political leaders and activists thought a new Parliament would usher in wide ranging political reforms and sharing of power. Many hoped that democracy would spread to the grassroots and would become a way of life for Jordanians. These wanted the new democratic representatives at the Lower House of Parliament to address social and political imbalances, end corruption, improve living standards and support human rights. Apart from the latter, the new parliamentarians failed — not that they even tried — to achieve any substantial progress on the other fronts. In fact, even some of Parliament's achievements — the political parties and the press and publication laws — have fallen far short of hopes and expectations. In fact, the two laws have given the executive authority more power to supervise and check both the political parties and the press. The gravest shortcoming of the authorities and subsequently parliamentarians was the notion held by many of them that people were neither ready for democracy nor for a free exchange of ideas. That is of course not to mention petty battles for power that were and are still being fought at the expense of the future of people and country.

People have grown aware that sending their representatives to Parliament once every four years does not necessarily mean full democracy or solutions to their problems. What people need, demand and fully deserve is reforms of the whole political system and legislation related thereto; a new system that will guarantee them their full right to choose their representatives at every level and be able to hold them accountable all the time. If they continue to be denied that right they will continue to be apathetic not only to elections but even to government decisions and to the ambitions of their leaders.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Sunday attacked a court ruling in Israel which, the paper said, paved the ground for halting the ongoing reconstruction of the holy shrines in Jerusalem. The court ruling, which has opened the way for the Temple Mount faithful to tamper with the ongoing reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock under the pretext that all Jerusalem is subject to Israeli laws, is bound to adversely affect the peace process, said the daily. Indeed, such a move was considered by some as a devastating blow levelled at the peace negotiations, it added. The paper said that such a serious development should motivate the world community to make fast moves to halt the Israeli practices and should prompt the Arab and Muslim nations to overturn the illegal Israeli measures. The paper said that Arab Jerusalem, with all its shrines and holy places, constitutes an integral part of the Arab and Islamic heritage and the Israeli move to tamper with the ongoing restoration work is considered as a provocation and an insult to the feelings of Muslims around the world. It said that the Israeli court ruling reflects the true nature of the Zionists and refutes their claims that they want peace with the Arab Nation.

THE GREAT number of candidates running in the coming parliamentary elections reflects the importance the Jordanians attach to the coming event and the coming Parliament, said a columnist in Al Dastour. Parliament is indeed the place where the decisions about domestic and external affairs are taken and the electorate has a duty to carefully choose its representatives who will be taking decisions affecting their lives and their destiny, said Saleh Al Qallab. The writer said that those citizens who fail to take part in the elections will not have the right later on to criticise Parliament and its decisions. He noted that failing to vote in the coming elections is a crime committed against the nation and its future. But, he added, Parliament should not be considered as a meeting place for heads of tribes and the candidates should realise that their task is to serve the public and issue legislations that cater to the people's needs and achieve their aspirations. The electorate should realise that many of the former deputies are no more useful to them, in light of the new givens and the new political, social and economic developments, and that many of the former deputies have already proved to be unable to interact with the contemporary and ongoing events, said the writer.

Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Things to be done in the name of democracy

DEMOCRACY is fast joining other much abused and tossed around words like love and religion. Much blood was spilt in the old and new days in the name of love and religion. As if the world has not already enough excuses to kill and destroy, now the cause of democracy is joining the bandwagon of ancient-recent phenomena that excuse the shedding of blood. Of course, both World War I and World War II were ostensibly ignited in the name of democracy and freedom. But till that era, there were very few democracies in the world anyway and therefore the subject was not accorded a top priority. Those were the days of colonisation and subjugation that many states, including the most staunch believers in democracy, took them in stride. The late fifties and sixties witnessed the birth of new countries on the ashes of the formal demise of the colonial and imperial days. For the most part, independence and self determination were not given an in-depth meaning since many of the newly independent countries continued to be controlled from without, especially by their former colonisers, as if nothing really had changed or happened. The grip of the powerful over the smaller and developing countries, however, started to give way to greater freedom of the weaker nations of the world, but the battle for full independence and self-determination has yet to be attained. Instead of the traditional strings that were pulled by the strong and mighty, more sophisticated tools were introduced to curb the freedoms of the new countries as if they were some kind of adolescent states in constant need of parental control and guidance.

Now the ways to keep a lid on countries are economical, financial and sophisticated espionage. In some really novice states, men are still being bought and sold by foreign powers. It all depends on the highest bidder.

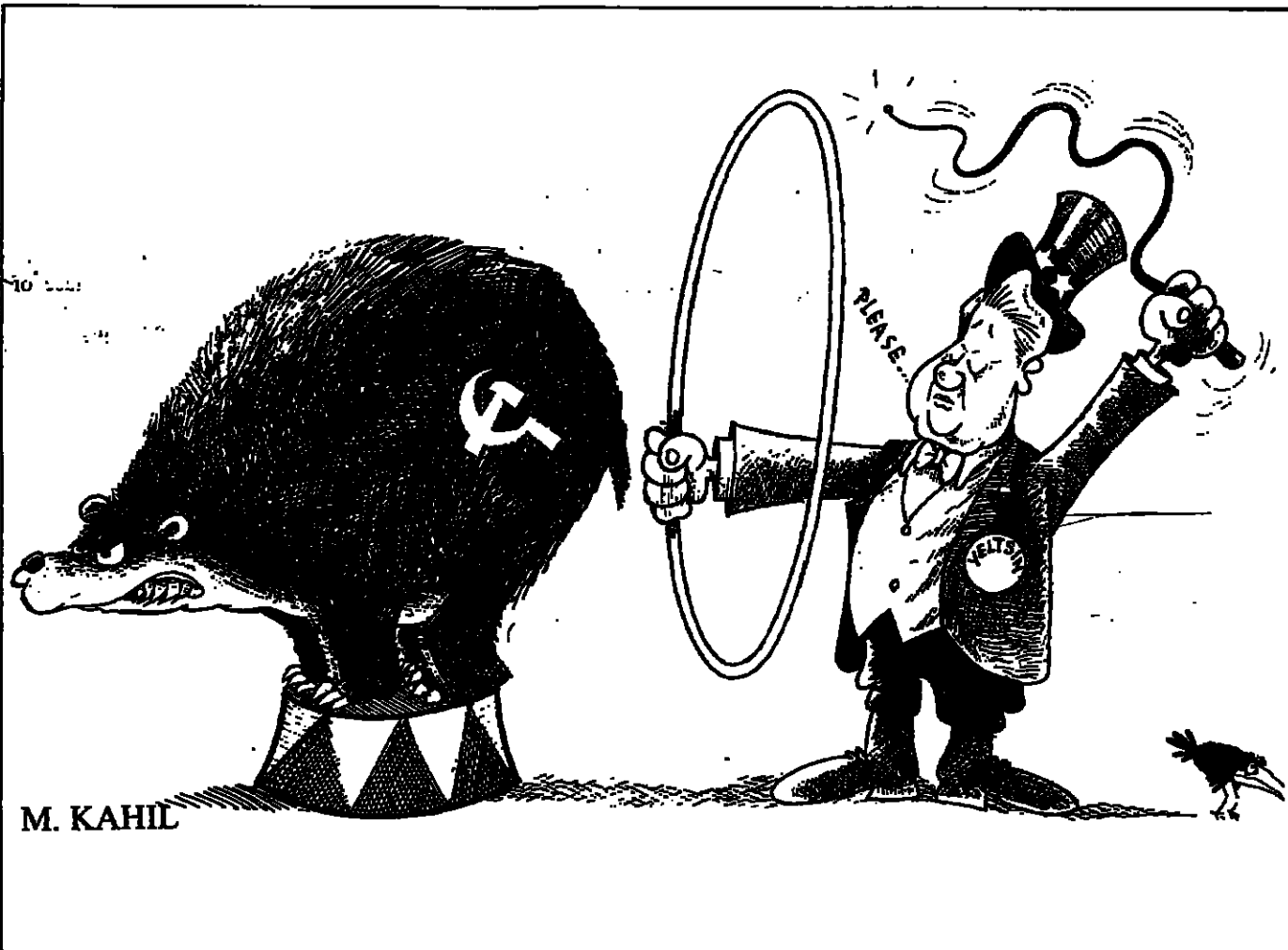
The subject of democracy took an ironical twist in Moscow, a few weeks ago, when the executive branch had an open warfare with the legislative. The sight of big guns pounding the Russian White House housing the People's Congress replaced, in the case of former Soviet Union, the traditional political slugging out that the developed world is used to. No matter who is right or wrong in the Russian case, the fact that the champions of pluralistic democracy applauded the physical annihilation of the legislature by President Boris Yeltsin, shows that there is something terribly wrong with the pursuit of democracy in contemporary times. At the end of the bloody ordeal in Moscow, the White House became black and white and this may indeed portray the political picture that emerged from the battle for power.

What is most depressing about the Russian experiment in democracy is the total isolation of the judiciary in the power game. President Yeltsin may have been totally right in wanting to dissolve the parliament, but when the point in time arrived when he could not see eye to eye with the People's Congress

on how to end the standoff, the interest of Russia and democracy would have necessitated the intervention by the judiciary to settle the dispute. Many cynics now accuse Mr. Yeltsin of manipulating the events that led to the assault on the former White House. One has to doubt such an allegation since no modern leader in the developed world can be so cold blooded as to infiltrate the ranks of his opposition to push them to the brink of a bloody showdown that they cannot possibly win.

Now the Russian leadership has got to pick up the pieces and conduct national elections. The first order of things is to allow pluralistic democracy to flourish no matter how objectionable some political parties may appear at the moment. Censorship of the mass media and outlawing political parties are not exactly the blueprint for pluralistic democracy. Such arbitrary and shortsighted measures can only push some political factions underground where they will seek undemocratic ways to be heard and felt. Russia has had enough political earthquakes already and it is high time that some other kind of political medicine is prescribed to the people. Russia has never enjoyed full democracy and the road to multi-party democracy is not going to be smooth sailing for the leadership there, whether now or in the future. For all intents and purposes, Russia is no different from many underdeveloped countries of the world, it needs to feel its way slowly but surely into the full-fledged democracy as the western world knows it. But determined steps need to be introduced right away, beginning with the construction of the fundamentals of a working democracy. The first lesson that needs to be learned is never to shoot out difficulties with the legislature or the judiciary. Dissolving parliament is obviously the last resort, as long as this privilege is not abused, and remedied by the earliest general elections possible. The judiciary deserves the full respect of the other two branches of government, at all times, since it is the solid foundation that even a fledgling democracy needs to nurture and develop on. This much was not done in Russia and this fact alone makes the assault on parliament that much more condemnable.

The latest episode in the struggle for power in Moscow clearly made a mockery of democracy and all those that justified the confrontation on its behalf. When the two opposing sides claim the right to take arms in its name, then something is terribly lacking in the cause of democracy in Russia. The least that the industrial countries should have done was not to applaud the resort to arms to settle the standoff and the bypassing of the judiciary for that purpose. By not doing so, they have effectively weakened the cause of democracy and those who still believe in its viability within the context of the new international order.



Yeltsin no more Mr. Nice Guy

By John Morrison
 Reuters

MOSCOW — What President Boris Yeltsin called "the nightmare" may be over, but Russian politics are never going to be the same again. The age of innocence has gone for good. Mr. Yeltsin's use of the army to crush a violent putsch attempt by communists and nationalists marks the end of a confused two-year period of transition since the August 1991 failed coup.

Then, there was street jubilation at what appeared to be the end of 70 years of totalitarianism. But many of the changes went no deeper than a lick of fresh paint and a new nameplate.

This week's second putsch defeat may have been the death-rattle of the old system, but there is no euphoria, even among the victors. Mr. Yeltsin said on television Wednesday that to talk of winners and losers would be "blasphemous."

But despite a note of reconciliation in which he described the victims on both sides as "all Russia's children," Mr. Yeltsin's message was that he would no longer be Mr. Nice Guy.

Propelled into power at the head of a weak and disorganised democratic movement after the failed 1991 coup and the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Yeltsin struck a deal with the remains of the old

system. There were no purges of the old guard.

Fearful of instability, he put democratisation and the dismantling of what was left of the communist state on the back burner, opting to postpone elections and push ahead instead with economic reform.

Since 1991, Russia's economy and society have been plunged headlong into change, but its political system has remained stuck in the Soviet era. Radical democrats grumbled, but it was not until his economic reforms began to be seriously hampered by parliament at the end of 1992 that Mr. Yeltsin began to speak again about the need for real political reform.

All this year he pushed hard for a new constitution and fresh elections against bitter resistance from his opponents, who openly advocated the restoration of the Soviet Union and the Leninist idea of "all power to the Soviets."

Now the climax of the crisis has left Mr. Yeltsin extraordinary freedom to crush the last remnants of the old communist system and impose his own political blueprint on Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin says Russia needs a new democratic constitution "like air." But there is a strong chance that the new design will owe more to Russian tradition than the western liberal values he was advocating only a few months ago.

Mr. Yeltsin still believes in the ballot-box — not surpris-

singly, as it has been the source of his own political legitimacy as president.

But to judge by his television broadcast, he now believes he has compromised too much rather than too little, and allowed too much leeway to his hardline opponents.

He said Russia was being destroyed by a fatal "dvoevlastie" (dual power), a word which for Russians carries doom-laden historical overtones of civil war between pretenders to the throne.

Even before this week's violence, a poll of Muscovites in the weekly "Argumenty i Fakty" showed a crushing 64 per cent favoured a single centre of power in Russia against only 24 per cent who wanted a western-style separation of powers.

Even before the Bolshevik revolution, power in Russia was always centralised under the autocrat, with a weak legislature and legal system. After 1917 the communists centralised it further in a party dictatorship without checks and balances.

Mr. Yeltsin still wants a new parliament elected in December, but this week's crisis is likely to reinforce his insistence that real power should be centred on a strong presidency.

One of his first decisions this week was that parliament would never return to the gutted White House, which will revert to being a headquarters of the Russian government. This means that the new

parliament will have no premises of its own and will meet instead in the Kremlin — Mr. Yeltsin's own backyard.

Mr. Yeltsin may also be giving extensive powers to the Upper Chamber of Parliament or Federation Council, composed of regional bigwigs. He sidestepped any mention of the body in his television address.

With no parliament to play off against the president, regional leaders may now think twice about flouting Moscow's authority.

Mr. Yeltsin forced the resignation on Wednesday of Valery Zorkin as chairman of the Constitutional Court. Although Mr. Zorkin was widely accused of discrediting his office by engaging in politics, the heavy-handed way he was removed marked another setback for the attempt to turn Russia into what Mikhail Gorbachev called a "law-governed state."

Other echoes of the Russian past are being heard. These include Mr. Yeltsin's acting Press Minister Vladimir Shumeiko lifting prior censorship on newspapers, but suggesting they practise self-censorship instead.

Mr. Yeltsin is certainly not planning any full-scale return to authoritarian rule but he is making the same bitter discovery as other liberal reforming tsars in this vast country — that western blueprints and models don't always work in Russia.

Energy for tomorrow

By Dr. Hisham Khatib

The World Energy Council (WEC), founded in 1924, is a unique non-commercial, multi-energy international non-governmental organisation (NGO) which exists to promote the sustainable supply and use of all forms of energy for the greatest benefit of all. It has member committees in some 100 countries (including Jordan) and many global, international and regional organisations and agencies are associated with the WEC in its work.

In order to study the future of energy and its relationship with the world's sustainable development, the World Energy Council initiated a commission "Energy for Tomorrow's World" — the realities, the real options and the agenda for achievement." This commission was launched at the 1989 14th congress in Montreal in order to represent the global energy sector, its probable development over the next 30 years and above all to demonstrate what the sector can and cannot achieve in the interdependent context of the sustainable development of the economy, energy, and environment.

After extensive work, which stretched over three years and practically involved almost every country in the world and some of the world's distinguished energy experts, the commission released its report. The report was released in a meeting of the WEC Executive Assembly which was held in Bali, Indonesia, on Sept. 22, 1993. The emphasis of the report is on the realities of the energy world over the next 30 years.

The following was mainly extracted from the report's summary and main conclusions. The commission report's primary emphasis was on the fact that the world population is expected to double in the coming decades and urban populations to treble. Therefore, we cannot carry on using energy as we currently do, without imperilling the world's future. We must start the process of change now, because the necessary adjustment can only be made slowly. The need for change is the first overall message of the report from the WEC commission.

Demand for services which energy provides — heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, mobility and motive power — will rise massively. The overwhelming part of that rise will occur in the developing countries, where many basic needs remain to be satisfied. To meet this growth in energy demand, all available forms of energy will be required and fossil fuels will continue to dominate for the next few decades.

Firmer emphasis must be placed on cleaner technologies for the processing and combustion of coal and oil. Accelerated development of other economic forms of energy is required: the new renewable and non-fossil fuels, together with careful review of long-term nuclear power requirements. Consistent environmental and safety criteria must be applied. Massive investment will be called for, requiring institutional change, the expansion of local financial markets, the encouragement of international joint ventures and the selective transfer of finance and technology to the developing countries. Improvement in the efficiency of energy provision and use is a top priority. Inefficiency and waste abound — whether in developed or developing countries, or in the economies in transition.

The report examines alternative cases to explore global and regional energy demand, possibilities in some detail to 2020, and in outline to 2100. The risks of climatic change are examined, but for most developing countries problems are higher priority.

The report also summarises the findings of nine regional reports prepared by working groups around the world, specially created to provide informed and realistic local viewpoints. The report sets out the key items for an effective agenda for action and makes clear its conclusions and recommendations. The key concerns are extending access to energy for the have-nots; improving efficiency and reducing the environmental impacts; expanding energy supplies, given rising uncertainty on oil and natural gas availability beyond 2020, and diversifying into non-fossil fuels, promoting technological innovation and diffusion; en-



Hisham Al Khatib

couraging financial support through international joint ventures and local capital markets, introducing institutional changes appropriate to local circumstances and global needs and curbing harmful emissions from energy provision and use.

The report makes it clear how far our current world is from addressing effectively the major energy issues of our times (the lack of access to energy, inefficiency and waste, inadequate pricing systems and widespread subsidies, the need to improve financial and technological availability and institutional frameworks). If a variety of economic, social and environmental goals are to be met satisfactorily, then energy consumers and policy-makers must recognise the need for change now, and start to exercise the appropriate options immediately.

They should also recognise that far-reaching changes in the capital stock, in new technology and its adoption and in behavioural patterns will take many, many decades. Paradoxically, long lead-times make the need to start instituting change now all the more urgent. The next 30 years are a critical transition period, beyond which even greater issues are likely to emerge. The report supports "minimum regret" policies to help the realisation of sustainable development.

The overall message of the commission's report is the need for change. Change of attitudes, change of systems, change of dimension and — not least — change to development planning are required. The growth will primarily be in the developing countries. Energy is a provider of basic needs and services. It is an essential ingredient of social development and economic growth. The challenge is to provide the energy services required by the world's expanding population while avoiding environmental impacts which could eventually become overwhelming.

Meeting this challenge requires massive changes to the global energy sector as we know it today. But change can only come about slowly. It involves phasing out many existing investments, the introduction and diffusion of new technologies, generations of successfully improved new investment, changes in energy policy and consumers' behavioural patterns. Energy systems cannot be changed rapidly, but the next 30 years constitute a critically important transition phase if long-term goals are to be realised.

Hence, we need to initiate change now if we are to achieve successful, sustainable development. This change has to be guided by the following facts: — The developing countries require above all else economic growth, fuelled by adequate finances and adequate energy.

— In Central/Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the existing energy systems, effect the transition to desirable market conditions and improve greatly both efficiency and pollution control.

— In the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries the emphasis is on greater efficiency and the development of technology.

In conclusion, the commission has identified a number of key issues and offered at least partial solutions for them. Like many publications, it may have its weak points — it has possibly underestimated developing countries' requirements; the assumption that oil and gas reserves will come under pressure early next century inducing price rises, may or may not materialise and the lack of more specific messages as an agenda for achievement, may be seen by some as deficiencies. However, it has clearly identified the main priorities and required action for global energy development and it has demonstrated the likely pathway of such integrated energy development over the next 30 years.

The writer, who is a former minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, is currently chairman of the International Committee for Developing Countries in the World Energy Council. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Iraqi artist exhibits oils Horses — symbol of freedom, pride

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Orfali art gallery, in Umm Utheina, is hosting its second personal exhibition since it was inaugurated in earlier September.

This exhibition, whose theme is "Horses", is that of a young Iraqi artist, Ali Al Mi'mar, who studied art in Baghdad under the guidance of the famous Iraqi artist Faiq Hassan. He is the holder of the Faiq Hassan gold medal for art.

The exhibition has been timed to coincide with the horse festival season, sponsored by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein, who inaugurated it. As a matter of fact, the exhibition was held for two days at the Royal Stables before moving to its present destination at the Orfali Gallery.

Around 28 oil paintings, all of which having a horse one way or the other, are on display.

The main feature of this exhibition is the movement, manifest in all paintings without distinction, stirring the viewer and creating a dynamic

atmosphere in the exhibition hall. This feeling is intensified by some vigorous paintings of horses soaring high up in the air, or rebellious, challenging and defying horses, as in "Towering". Horses are painted with their tails and manes flying in soft motion, demonstrating their right to natural freedom, wanting to jump out of the painting right into the hall with much strength and fervour, scattering thick clouds of dust and sand around them and all over the canvas.

It is obvious that the artist is very skilled in capturing of horse body movement through his concise construction of the contour of the horse muscles in its different, strong, beautiful and very real manoeuvres. With skill and knowledge in portraying even the smallest detail in the horse's head and figure, his works are more like photographic pictures than paintings.

Mr. Mi'mar gives little attention to the background of the painting. It is generally soft or blurry, in a creamy, grayish or blackish colour, with depth in shades and harmony in colours, merely intended to create

a striking contrast with the natural colours of the main figures of the paintings, and reflecting the prevailing atmosphere (of anger or serenity) of the painting, without causing any distraction from the main theme. All the attention of the viewer concentrates with full power on the focal point of the painting: the exquisite, elegant figure of the horse.

In some of the paintings, the horse is a lonely figure, either strolling peacefully, as in Sakir, or posing for a face portrait, as in Sofian and Al Matrabi. An eagle appears in two of the paintings, alongside the horses, reinforcing the concept of strength, power.

Other paintings contain an image of a beautiful woman alongside the horse. She appears either in conservative fluffy black gown, standing by the horse, in a provocative red dress, fast asleep on the ground below it, or in the shape of an extremely expressive gispy, daring the viewer and taking attention away from the horse. In all cases, one cannot but notice the silent debate between the two captivating figures and the feelings shared between them, whether

of love, as in "Motherhood" and "Love Story" or sympathy as in "Memory."

"To me the horse in the painting is more than an animal. It also symbolises humanity. It could very well be a man, or a woman, full of expression, love suffering or wisdom," Mr. Mi'mar told the Jordan Times. The strongest painting which demonstrates this, in his opinion, is "Steps Towards Tomorrow." In this painting, the horse is a prisoner, trapped in a certain situation. Its imprisonment does not impede his free, proud movement. It does not pay the slightest attention to the envious, ugly creature eyeing it from outside the jail window.

The blue bead hung on the neck of the horse is the symbol of its resistance to evil. "It is a demonstration of the continuous to battle and endless challenge between the good and the evil," Mr. Mi'mar told the Jordan Times. "It is my favourite and most successful painting, one which I value most of all in my work so far and probably I will continue to do so even in future."

The exhibition goes on until Oct. 22, 1993.

New NATO commander a tenacious former football star

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. army General George Alfred Joulwan, NATO's new military commander, is a tenacious leader and former college football star known as "coach" to his troops.

He is currently based in Panama as commander of U.S. forces in Latin America but is no stranger to Europe having served a total of 14 years in Germany in posts ranging from platoon leader to senior army commands.

"If he carries the toughness and patience to Belgium that he has given to the war on drugs he will be a heck of a commander," said one Defence Department official after Monday's announcement that Gen. Joulwan would become supreme allied commander of military forces in Europe (Saceur).

Gen. Joulwan, 53, had to be pressured to accept President Bill Clinton's order to replace

General John Shalikashvili, who is leaving the NATO job in Mons, Belgium, to become chairman of the U.S. military Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Senior defence officials said Gen. Joulwan, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, did not want to leave Panama where he commanded U.S. forces in Latin America and with it the military drug interdiction effort.

"He was reluctant to leave Panama. He considers the war on illegal drugs to be one of the most important battles we are involved in," said an officer close to Gen. Joulwan.

Gen. Joulwan has told Congress and others repeatedly that the 10,000 Americans who die every year from drugs are "casualties in a war."

At West Point, Gen. Joulwan played for the academy's last unbeaten football team in 1958.

He is well liked by his troops and is affectionately known as "coach", according to members of his staff.

Gen. Joulwan currently heads the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama City, where he is in charge of all American forces in Central and South America. He is an avid weekend golfer.

Gen. Joulwan's ability to get different nations to work together militarily despite political and other differences will serve him well in NATO as it did in South America, where the military forces of many neighbouring Latin American nations work closely together to halt drug smuggling on their borders.

As NATO commander, he will face major challenges of a different nature including cuts in European military budgets and troops strength as well as how to handle possible peacekeeping efforts in trouble spots such as the former Yugoslavia.

Gen. Joulwan is familiar with the terrain in Europe because of previous senior military postings there. He was a special assistant to the Saceur

in Mons in 1974-75 and has also commanded the Third Armoured Division and the U.S. Fifth Corps in Germany.

He will become the latest in a series of U.S. commanders of NATO forces since the post was set up in 1950, a year after the alliance was founded to counter Soviet power.

Alliance officials had speculated in recent years that a European might one day hold the Saceur post as Washington reduces its military presence in Europe.

"I know that the secretary (Defence Secretary Les Aspin) feels that there very well may be an appropriate point for one of the allies to take over this position," Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen Delaski told reporters recently.

But "I think the feeling among allies as well as the U.S. is that now may not be just that right time," she added.

Gen. Joulwan, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam war, is married and has three daughters.

Aircraft giants race for growing Saudi market

By Nadim Kawasb
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Major aircraft producers are racing to grab a share of the growing Saudi market as the world's top oil producer presses ahead with plans to bolster its air force and civilian fleet.

U.S. giants as Boeing and McDonnell Douglas and European Airbus industries are pinning hopes on securing major deals when they participate at an international air show in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) next month.

High-ranking Saudi military and civilian officials will attend the November 7-11 show in Dubai and organisers said tough competition had started.

"International aerospace companies, already eagerly anticipating the award of the fiercely-fought Saudi fleet modernisation contracts, are harnessing their resources for a

sale blitz on the kingdom's civil and military authorities at the Dubai show," said Virginia Kern, managing director of the London-based Fairs and Exhibition, which is organising the show.

"A hefty proportion of the 450 exhibiting companies are keenly watching developments in Saudi Arabia because they see a string of orders emanating from the country," she said in a statement to AFP.

Saudi Arabia plans to spend nearly \$6 billion to boost the fleet of its official carrier, Saudia, and has also embarked on a massive armament project since the end of the Gulf war.

U.S. Transport Secretary Federico Pena visited Riyadh over the weekend to push the deal through in face of competition from Airbus.

Despite a sharp fall in its oil revenues and overseas assets, Saudi Arabia is planning to

spend more than \$10 billion until the year 2000 on arms imports, mainly jetfighters and helicopters.

Before the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it had nearly 150 warplanes, most of them U.S.-made.

Riyadh is believed to have ordered 48 U.S.-built Apache combat helicopters, the biggest deal of its kind in the Middle East. The UAE, which is also beefing up its defences, has bought 20 Apaches for \$600 million.

"A flurry of pre-show activity in the Saudi civil aviation field has raised some hopes that long-awaited deals may be announced at the Dubai show," said Gloria Giles, Fairs and Exhibition sales director.

The United States, France, Britain, Russia, China and around 30 other arms producers will take part in the exposition, the third to be held in the oil-rich emirates.

Organisers said some air-

craft would be displayed for the first time at the exhibition, the third largest air show in the world.

"Major deals are expected to be announced at the show, including aircraft and air defence systems," a Fairs and Exhibitions statement said.

Another competitor at the show is the Canadian Aerospace Giant Bombardier, which said recently that negotiations were under way with the Saudis.

According to Tony Vandyk, international editor of Air Transport World, the Saudia contract would likely represent, collectively, the biggest piece of business placed with the world commercial air transport manufacturing industry by a single airline this year.

"Pending for several months, the announcement could well be made during the Dubai show," he said in a statement to the organisers.



Two works by Ali Al Mi'mar on display at the Orfali gallery

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EC ministers move haltingly towards single currency

GENVAL, Belgium (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers agreed Saturday on legislation for the next step towards a single EC currency, but shot down any idea of a rush to narrow fluctuation bands in its exchange rate mechanism.

The ministers reached a political accord on secondary legislation which must be in place by the end of the year if the second and penultimate stage of economic and monetary union and the European Monetary Institute is to start on Jan. 1.

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, who chaired the meeting, said they accepted that their economies must be brought back into line before any moves to reinstate the narrow 2.25 per cent fluctuation bands of the EC's currency grid — the supposed single currency vehicle.

"I am still convinced that we must try to reinforce the exchange rate mechanism," Mr. Maystadt told a news conference. "But we also think there are some preconditions to be met before we talk of a return to narrow margins, and one of those is greater convergence."

Mr. Maystadt agreed with European Commission President Jacques Delors that three keys to this were lower interest rates, a higher U.S. dollar and renewed investment.

There has been heated debate over the future of the exchange rate mechanism since EC finance ministers agreed in August under intense market pressure to widen its fluctuation bands to 15 per cent.

Mr. Maystadt, fearing that wide bands would increase the temptation for countries to devalue their currencies to win a competitive edge over their neighbours, has pressed for an early return to narrow limits.

He welcomed the ministers' approval of secondary European Monetary System legislation which would ban central banks from financing government debt, bar governments from privileged access to financial markets and spell out who pays what for the European Monetary Institute.

The ministers took no decision on the tricky questions of the site and first president of the institute, the embryo EC central bank. The issue is due to be settled at a special EC summit pencilled in for Oct. 29.

Diplomats said Britain, France and Germany rejected the idea and said any guidelines, which should be agreed by the end of the year, must be more general.

Mr. Delors said he presented the ministers with a broad outline of the deep problems facing the Community in view of its declining competitive position against Japan and the United States, its faltering economies and its mounting unemployment.

The ministers discussed macro-economic guidelines to help to bring their economies back into line, but failed to agree on Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen's proposal that they should set specific performance targets.

At annual talks here last week ASEAN economic ministers approved tariff cuts on more than 32,000 product lines with almost immediate effect to kick-start a common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) programme whose launch was delayed by a year.

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India eyes opportunities in Mideast, S. Africa

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh asked India's builders Saturday to explore a potentially lucrative construction market in post-apartheid South Africa.

Mr. Singh, addressing a meeting of India's Overseas Construction Council, also urged entrepreneurs to seek projects in the Middle East following the peace pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

India lifted trade and investment sanctions against South Africa on Sept. 25 after an appeal at the United Nations by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

"With the collapse of apartheid and the dawn of democracy in South Africa, immense potential now exists for accelerating the pace of development in the entire southern cone of Africa," Mr. Singh said.

"Even countries in Europe offer project opportunities. We should go all out to enter these markets."

Traditionally pro-Arab India established diplomatic ties with Israel in January last year, a week after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat cleared the move in New Delhi.

Mr. Singh said: "The recent agreement between the PLO and Israel can generate exciting opportunities for accelerated development in the region."

Mr. Singh, piloting sweeping economic reforms, sounded a cautionary note about excessive reliance on foreign aid.

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ASEAN moves to integrate economies

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Twenty-six years after fear of communism drove them to group, the six Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have made their most ambitious move at economic integration aimed at creating a regional free market, their officials said Sunday.

At annual talks here last week ASEAN economic ministers approved tariff cuts on more than 32,000 product lines with almost immediate effect to kick-start a common effective preferential tariff (CEPT) programme whose launch was delayed by a year.

The CEPT will lead to an ASEAN free trade area (AFTA) in 15 years when tariffs on most goods traded between Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand will attract duties of no more than five per cent as long as they have a 40 per cent local content.

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ASEAN's private sector which had effectively blocked enforcement of a slightly shorter list of tariff cuts planned for January this year, has endorsed the new agreement with few reservations ensuring it takes off by January next year.

But officials of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI) have called for help for industries that might be hurt by the more open markets and urged some reconsideration of local content rules.

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maintain the economic momentum that has seen ASEAN economies grow by more than seven per cent annually since the mid-1980s.

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"More open markets mean problems of adjustment and restructuring especially in the small business and agricultural sectors," Mr. Goh said adding that these sectors were accustomed to a more regulated environment.

Businessmen say that some of the AFTA's birth pangs might be eased somewhat by ASEAN's move into developing growth triangles to share resources across their common borders in three or more coun-

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ASEAN has also accepted a Japanese offer to help upgrade the region's industry with more infusions of technology while labour intensive plants shift to China and Indochina.

The plan, outlined by Tokyo's minister for international trade and industry Hiroshi Kumagai in talks with the ASEAN minister here is part of Asia-wide industrial restructuring that should make ASEAN industry more competitive, Japanese officials said.

"For example, although Japan's industrial production far outstrips that of ASEAN, ASEAN's energy consumption amounts to a third that of Japan. Clearly there is room for improvement," a Japanese official said.

Mr. Maystadt, fearing that wide bands would increase the temptation for countries to devalue their currencies to win a competitive edge over their neighbours, has pressed for an early return to narrow limits.

He welcomed the ministers' approval of secondary European Monetary System legislation which would ban central banks from financing government debt, bar governments from privileged access to financial markets and spell out who pays what for the European Monetary Institute.

The ministers took no decision on the tricky questions of the site and first president of the institute, the embryo EC central bank. The issue is due to be settled at a special EC summit pencilled in for Oct. 29.

Diplomats said Britain, France and Germany rejected the idea and said any guidelines, which should be agreed by the end of the year, must be more general.

Mr. Delors said he presented the ministers with a broad outline of the deep problems facing the Community in view of its declining competitive position against Japan and the United States, its faltering economies and its mounting unemployment.

The ministers discussed macro-economic guidelines to help to bring their economies back into line, but failed to agree on Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen's proposal that they should set specific performance targets.

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52 Surveying & Mapping
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2608 Building Trades
106 General Business
16 Practical English
89 Small Engine Repair
50 Starting Your Own Business
08 Legal Assistant
69 Computer Programming in COBOL
48 Computer-Assisted Bookkeeping
42 Dressmaking & Design
87 TV/Video Repair
04 Auto Mechanics

Arabs need to create 2.5m jobs annually

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states, their unemployment problems worsening after the Gulf war, need to create 2.5 million jobs a year to face growth in their workforce, an official report said Friday.

The number of job seekers is projected to grow by two per cent annually during the 1990s to reach 99 million by the year 2000, when the population is expected at 295 million, said the report by the Cairo-based Arab Economic Unity Council (AEUC).

"This means there will be a demand of 2.5 million jobs annually during this period," the report said.

Most Arab countries are already suffering from high unemployment rates due to economic problems caused mainly by political instability and decades of state control of the economy.

The problem worsened in some member states after hundreds of thousands of Arabs lost their jobs in the

Gulf during the war.

According to AEUC, which groups the Arab economy ministers, around two million Arab workers lost their jobs, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

They include 70,000 Egyptian, 345,000 Palestinians and Jordanians, 110,000 Syrians, 60,000 Lebanese and unspecified number of Sudanese.

More than 730,000 Yemenis were also expelled by Saudi Arabia after it accused Sanaa of sympathising with Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

"Besides these, there were five million unemployed persons in 1990, including four million in Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Sudan," AEUC said.

The report did not say how Arab states would face labour growth but many of them have launched reforms to tackle their economic difficulties like debt, unemployment, low investments, budget deficits and a large import bill.

A recent report by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) cited other reasons for the deteriorating unemployment problem, including a rapid population growth, a slowdown in Gulf economies after the end of the oil boom, and the return of large number of workers from Europe.

"Strict immigration policies in Europe are forcing a large number of Arab labour to return to their home countries, which could not absorb them. This pushed up unemployment rates in these countries."

"Another factor is that Arab workforce is dominated by non-skilled labour. With the steady rise in university graduates, unemployment is worsening in some countries as those graduates do not find jobs that suit their qualifications."

Citing other economic woes, AEUC said inflation in the Arab world stood at as high as 20 per cent in 1990-1991. In war-hit Sudan, it soared to 106

per cent and to 50 per cent in Lebanon, to 20 per cent in Iraq and 14.7 per cent in Egypt.

Arab debt was put at \$250 billion at the end of 1991 and debt servicing at \$17 billion although the 22-member Arab League has up to \$800 billion in overseas assets.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK OFFER - JORDANIAN
TELEPHONE: 440110 / 440111
CAPITALISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR 10/10/1993

COMPANY NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	23,198	184.000	180.000	180.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	79,129	4.220	4.200	4.200
WILSON EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4,789	4.400	4.500	4.500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	18,893	3.000	3.000	3.000
THE JORDANIAN BANK	29,103	4.040	4.150	4.150
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	110,490	5.700	5.900	5.900
JORDAN SECURITIES BANK	191,887	3.210	3.260	3.260
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5,013	1.000	0.950	0.950
ARAB BANK	24,966	4.100	4.100	4.100
ARAB BANK	4,100	4.600	4.650	4.650
ARAB BANK	1,578	4.500	4.500	4.500
ARAB BANK	108,969	1.850	1.850	1.850
ARAB BANK	105,887	2.460	2.460	2.460
ARAB BANK	8,000	3.910	4.000	4.000
ARAB BANK	18,893	3.010	3.010	3.010
ARAB BANK	341	3.600	3.610	3.610
ARAB BANK	160	4.000	4.000	4.000
ARAB BANK	86,544	5.440	5.450	5.450
ARAB BANK	2,308	8.050	8.050	8.050
ARAB BANK	5,900	0.810	0.850	0.850
ARAB BANK	10,824	4.300	4.350	4.350
ARAB BANK	1,135	0.380	0.380	0.380
ARAB BANK	7,958	1.020	1.070	1.070
ARAB BANK	7,958	1.020	1.070	1.070
ARAB BANK	833	1.200	1.190	1.190
ARAB BANK	20,950	10.850	10.850	10.850
ARAB BANK	10,948	2.260	2.260	2.260
ARAB BANK	207,827	2.140	2.120	2.120
ARAB BANK	174	0.870	0.870	0.870
ARAB BANK	15,342	10.600	10.700	10.700
ARAB BANK	25,030	7.000	7.000	7.000
ARAB BANK	75,864	11.400	11.500	11.500
ARAB BANK	212,678	8.780	8.850	8.850
ARAB BANK	1,972	2.800	2.850	2.850
ARAB BANK	15,342	2.800	2.850	2.850
ARAB BANK	729	2.260	2.260	2.260
ARAB BANK	195,642	18.800	17.000	17.000
ARAB BANK	113,252	9.900	10.050	10.050
ARAB BANK	48	0.280	0.280	0.280
ARAB BANK	52,239	3.880	3.950	3.950
ARAB BANK	710	2.270	2.260	2.260
ARAB BANK	510	1.020	1.050	1.050
ARAB BANK	121,755	8.450	8.500	8.500
ARAB BANK	11,781	3.800	3.800	3.800
ARAB BANK	6,488	1.460	1.500	1.500
ARAB BANK	770	0.700	0.700	0.700
ARAB BANK	9,500	2.650	2.730	2.730
ARAB BANK	18,400	4.420	4.420	4.420
GRAND TOTAL	2,769,688			

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 4 — October 8, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar lost considerable ground against European currencies last week, as market focus was steered back to U.S. economic fundamentals. The weak U.S. economic recovery served to undermine the dollar which ended the week 1.68 per cent lower against the mark, 1.96 per cent lower against sterling, but little changed against the yen.

The dollar moved lower against other major currencies Monday, especially the mark, as indications of an ending of the political crisis in Russia provided traders with opportunities to liquidate their long dollar positions, built up on previous safe-haven considerations. News that U.S. Construction Spending fell by 1.1 per cent in August further hampered the dollar. Analysts also indicated that much of the mark's rise against the dollar was due to positive industrial output figures in the western parts of Germany released that day, which was reported to have risen by 2.1 per cent in August compared to the previous month.

On Tuesday, the dollar traded around its Monday closing levels as trading activity was light and dominated by technical considerations. The dollar was reported to have appreciated slightly against the yen during New York trading hours, despite comments by the Bank of Japan governor that a stronger yen would stabilise domestic prices and contribute to reducing the costs of imported raw materials in Japan over the long term. An additional factor slightly supporting the dollar that day was comments by U.S. officials reflecting a tough stance on the trade talks between the U.S. and Japan. Reports indicated that the U.S. had pressured Japan to buy more U.S. auto parts as part of the Japanese government's previous commitments to easing access of imported goods to its domestic market.

The dollar held steady against the yen and the mark Wednesday, but moved lower against sterling. Traders attributed much of sterling's rise to technical factors along with optimism about the Conservative Party conference. Reports also indicated that the market remained quiet as many traders preferred to stay on the sidelines and were reluctant to take new positions ahead of Friday's release of U.S. September employment report. In the meantime, comments by a known U.S. economist calling for the U.S. administration attempt to hold the dollar in a range of 100 to 110 yen, failed to affect exchange rates.

The dollar traded in narrow ranges Thursday compared to the previous day, but ended lower against the yen as traders awaited the employment report the next day.

The dollar moved sharply lower against European currencies Friday following the release of September's U.S. employment report. The report revealed a rise in non-farm payrolls by 156,000 against forecasts of a rise of 155,000, which was within expectations. Observers maintained, however, that market participants were disappointed by the fact that 30 per cent of the increase was in the government sector, in addition to the negative revision of 41,000, in non-farm payrolls instead of the 39,000 drop previously declared. The dollar moved higher against the yen, however in response to traders' reaction to comments by U.S. officials, which indicated to some analysts that the U.S. administration is backing away from its policy of endorsement of a stronger yen as one way of reducing the mounting trade deficit with Japan.

The dollar thus ended the week at 1.6038 marks and 106.05 yen, while sterling ended it at 1.5345 dollars.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 10/10/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0562	1.0615
Deutsche Mark	0.4290	0.4311
Swiss Franc	0.4901	0.4926
French Franc	0.1223	0.1229
Japanese Yen*	0.6479	0.6511
Dutch Guilder	0.3815	0.3834
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0434	0.0456
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	11/10/93	8/30/93	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5050	1.5345	-1.96%
Deutsche Mark	1.6308	1.6038	-1.68%
Swiss Franc	1.4235	1.4053	-1.30%
French Franc	5.6915	5.6350	-1.78%
Japanese Yen	106.00	106.05	(0.05)%

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Gorbachev may run for president, criticises legislative elections

LONDON (Agencies) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Sunday he doubted forthcoming legislative elections in Russia would be "free and fair" and added he was considering joining the race for president.

Mr. Gorbachev, speaking from Moscow during a live satellite interview with BBC Television, labelled last week's failed uprising by hardliners in the Russian parliament as a power struggle between the country's "Bolshevik factions" — parliament and the government — and decided the Kremlin's clampdown on opposition newspapers.

"We are all very apprehensive of the danger of restrictions on democracy which are declared to be merely temporary," he said.

"It is just like the Bolsheviks (the Communists who seized power in the 1917 October Revolution) who banned temporarily the bourgeois newspapers and these newspapers never returned. I am afraid this could be repeated."

He said legislative elections planned by President Boris Yeltsin for December should be postponed until March or April as there was little chance that they could proceed in a free and fair environment at the scheduled Dec. 12 date.

"We have a date but we don't know who to elect. Where to elect. Under what provisions. Under what procedure," he said. "We don't have

the prerequisite for free elections."

"You have the power on one side, you have finances on the other side. Everything is on one side," he added. "These are not fair elections."

He said his decision on whether to join the presidential race, currently scheduled after the legislative elections, would depend on the political atmosphere and the outcome of the December poll.

"I am now thinking of my role in the future and I will decide on this shortly," he said. "I will think it over."

Meanwhile, President Boris Yeltsin cracked down on resistance in Russia's provinces at the weekend and extended a state of emergency in the capital by eight days.

Moscow City Commandant General Alexander Koltikov said in a statement Saturday any attempt to organise demonstrations against emergency rule would be stifled with all means available.

Troops with Kalashnikov rifles Sunday mounted checkpoints on major roads leading into the capital, stopping cars and checking the identity of drivers and passengers. Army trucks and armoured cars moved into bases near the centre.

On the outskirts of town, the major Sunday market of Izmailovo was shut down by order of the commandant.

"It's all because of the re-

volution," said one trader looking around at empty space where normally thousands throng. "But we'll be back."

A sixth night of curfew passed without violence. Muscovites strolled in autumn sunshine around the blackened White House parliament where militants launched a bloody mutiny a week ago. Some posed for photographs before armoured cars.

The vision of order in the capital, however, belied the tension in the Kremlin and provinces as Mr. Yeltsin moved to quell last bastions of resistance to his emergency rule.

The president, who crushed the uprising by storming the insurgents' stronghold when they refused to surrender, issued an order Saturday subordinating Russia's conservative Soviets or councils to local administrators loyal to him.

He stopped short of abolishing the councils as he did the federal parliament last month, a move that could have caused dissent in his own camp.

But the order will test the strength of regional council leaders who, at least for the moment, appear the only seat of opposition to the president. The councils were expected to meet to consider Mr. Yeltsin's decree.

The decree ordered a special commission to work out plans by Oct. 15 for elections to new

local councils in Russia's 66 regions and advised the 22 semi-autonomous republics to follow suit.

The elections would probably coincide with polls for a new state Duma or parliament to replace the legislature Mr. Yeltsin abolished in September, triggering the crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin urgently needs to reestablish order in the country to allow campaigning for the elections, but is clearly wary of easing his grip hastily.

The state of emergency, declared last Sunday when hardliners led by former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi launched a bid for state power that scattered the city's security forces in disorder, was extended Saturday for a further eight days.

But authorities said the curfew would be imposed an hour later, at midnight. It lasts, as before, until 5 a.m.

Russian police offered an unspecified reward for the capture of Ilya Konstantinov, leader of the militant National Salvation Front, and one of the few leading figures in last week's rebellion still at large.

A police notice in the newspaper Moskovsky Komсомолец published a photograph of the burly, bearded Konstantinov.

Gen. Rutskoi and Russian Khasbulatov, chairman of the abolished parliament and the other chief leader of the uprising, are being held in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison.



TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY: Taiwan military former Taiwan President Chiang Kai-Shek, descendants Sunday hoist portraits of Sun Yat-Sen, the founding father of the Republic of China, and National Day (AFP photo)

180 feared dead in S. Korean disaster

PUAN, South Korea (R) — As many as 180 people were feared dead after a ferry packed with holidaymakers, fishermen and islanders capsized in rough seas off the west coast of South Korea Sunday, police and passengers said.

The 110-tonne ferry Seohae, which some survivors said was overloaded, foundered in high waves off Puan county, 220 kilometres south of Seoul.

Altogether 68 passengers were plucked to safety from the choppy seas and 39 bodies were recovered.

Many of the passengers were returning from overnight angling trips.

Up to 140 people were still unaccounted for eight hours after the accident and they were feared to have been either trapped in the bowels of the sunken ferry or swept out to sea.

Rescuers said there was only slight hope for any more survivors of the country's worst ferry disaster for more than two decades.

A police officer in Puan said the ship was believed to be carrying between 230 and 250 passengers and crew. It had an official passenger capacity of

207.

Police said they had no idea of the number of passengers because the crew had been unable to provide a count.

Survivors said the boat overturned and sank shortly after it was engulfed in high waves.

"I think there were about 200 people on board. I saw high waves and the boat was rocking," said Choi Won-Hwi, 37.

"I saw water in the ferry and before I knew it we were sinking. There were too many people and too much luggage on board," Mr. Choi said.

Another survivor said he held on to a buoy for about an hour before being rescued by a passing fishing vessel. "I saw at least 20 people clinging to floating objects," he added.

Fishermen fought through the bad weather to arrive first at the scene. Dozens of military helicopters and naval ships later joined the search.

"I was the first one at the scene but by then the ferry had sunk and objects like ice-cube packs were floating around," one fisherman told reporters.

"Rescue teams, including divers, are still searching for the missing bodies. But I am afraid there will be no more survivors," a police spokesman in Puan said.

On shore, police searched the dead, laid out in rows near a jetty, for clues to their identity. Relatives wailed and clutched each other as bodies were identified.

Bodies were later taken to a makeshift morgue in the village.

The ferry left the fishing island of Wi at 9.50 a.m. (0050 GMT) after a 30-minute delay caused by gusting winds and strong tides. It was bound for the small port of Kyeogpo on the mainland some 20 kilometres away.

"We presume the ship sank only 20 minutes after it departed," a police officer said.

State radio said the ferry was about to turn around and head back for Wi due to the bad weather when disaster struck.

At least 11 of the survivors were badly injured and taken to hospital. The rest received some treatment and were discharged promptly, the police spokesman said.

Interior Minister Lee Hae-Koo and Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae travelled to Puan to oversee the rescue operation, state television said.

Yeltsin goes to Japan today

MOSCOW (R) — Last week he snatched enemies at home with tanks and guns, but when President Boris Yeltsin flies to Japan Monday he will be handling Russia's diplomatic adversary for half a century with kid gloves.

Even if he overcomes Japanese distaste for his iron-fist tactics in crushing a bloody mutiny by militants, the burly Yeltsin will have to do more than sweet-talk his wealthy neighbour to make a success of the trip.

Moscow and Tokyo never formally signed a peace treaty after World War II, and are still at odds over the four South Kurile Islands seized by Soviet forces in 1945.

Japan, which calls the islands the Northern Territories, wants them back before it starts giving Russia cash hand-outs. Impoverished Russia wants Japanese aid, but does not want to hand over the islands for reasons of national pride.

The Japanese position on the four Kurile Islands remains stubbornly unchanged," the Liberal daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta commented ahead of the Oct. 11-13 visit.

It quoted a Foreign Ministry official as refusing to speculate over whether Mr. Yeltsin's visit would mark a turning point in relations.

But the question remains. Until now, nationalist hardliners opposed to Mr. Yeltsin have refused to contemplate any change in status for the islands. Domestic disputes have been blamed for the postponements of two previous Japan visits.

Now Mr. Yeltsin has destroyed that opposition, by ordering tanks to fire on a hostile conservative parliament which had launched an armed mutiny, as his hands free at last to settle the islands argument with Tokyo.

Mr. Yeltsin aides have recently flirted with different answers, revealing Moscow's deep uncertainty about the best next move.

Moderate Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin ruled out the return of the Kuriles altogether in August, saying their sovereignty was not even at issue.

But Mr. Yeltsin swiftly stepped back from the row which ensued, smoothing ruffled Japanese feelings by saying his premier's headline comments had only described "one of the possible variants" in the negotiations.

Within weeks, one of his closest aides was in Tokyo trying out a quite different approach.

"I consider what happened during the 1940s as brutal aggressive actions under (Soviet dictator Josef) Stalin," former State Secretary Gennady Burbulis told a seminar. "The islands will be returned sooner or later."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe's neutrals edge towards change

BRUSSELS (R) — Swedish troops and Finnish equipment could come under direct NATO command in Bosnia, in what diplomats say is the latest sign that Europe's neutral nations are moving towards a new foreign policy. Austria, Finland and Sweden are negotiating to join the European Community and are looking at how they will be involved in the development of a common EC foreign and security policy after they become members, probably in 1995. The point is that all existing EC members, with the exception of Ireland, are also members of NATO and the two organisations are committed to working together on security. "There are clear signs that the neutrals realise they will have to move closer to NATO if they join the Community," said one alliance diplomat. One of the most significant recent moves was the commitment in principle of a 650-strong battalion from the Nordic countries to a planned NATO force that will be sent to police a future peace agreement in Bosnia.

2 missing in U.S. tanker blast

GALVESTON, Texas (R) — A tanker was burning in Galveston Harbour after exploding Saturday night, with two crew members reported missing and up to 27 people injured, authorities said. Broadcast reports said the two missing crew members were in the engine room of the 660-foot tanker when it exploded about 8:40 p.m. (0140 GMT Sunday) in this port on the Gulf of Mexico. The ship was reported to be a U.S. chemical tanker, empty of its cargo at the time of the blast and carrying a crew of 35. A local hospital said it was treating 27 people from the explosion. The severity of their injuries was unknown. The tanker was burning about 1½ miles off Galveston, which is the entrance to the Houston Ship Channel, an important route for the shipment of oil, refined products and chemicals.

Italy's secret services purged

ROME (R) — The government has announced a purge of Italy's scandal-hit secret services which are embroiled in several fraud cases and face investigation over alleged collusion with the mafia and neo-fascist guerrillas. Italian state television said 500 members of the civilian intelligence agency SISDE would go by the end of the year. Earlier Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri said more than 300 agents of SISMI military intelligence would be dropped in the next three months. A brief statement by the cabinet office said "a vast movement of staff was under way in both the (secret) services" as part of a major reform of the intelligence community being pushed through by Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Mr. Ciampi promised to overhaul the secret services immediately after a series of bomb explosions in Milan and Rome in July 27 that caught intelligence services off guard. The head of SISDE was sacked within hours of the bombings.

30 injured during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (AFP) — At least 30 people were injured Sunday as security forces and opposition party protesters clashed in Dhaka during a nationwide anti-government general strike, witnesses said. Police and paramilitary forces chased and baton-charged about 100 protesters from the Jatiya Party (JP) of deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad as they tried to march along a city centre street, the witnesses said. In a separate incident, picketers torched a car in the Mahabali area during other clashes between police and protesters. The strike was called by another opposition party, the Awami League (AL), which seeks, among other demands, the prosecution of another opposition party's leader. The strike, which marked the end of a two-month AL campaign, came on the anniversary of the start of a violent protest movement in 1990 which led to the fall of the Ershad regime three months later. Gen. Ershad, leader of the Jatiya Party, resigned in December 1990 in the face of a popular pro-democracy uprising and is serving a 20-year jail term for graft and possession of illegal weapons. He faces several more graft charges.

Philippine floods recede

MANILA (R) — Thousands of Filipinos trekked back home Sunday as floodwaters receded after wreaking damage to crops and property estimated at \$144 million, officials said. More than 50 people died, mostly from drowning, in the week-long floods triggered by tropical storm Flo in 12 towns on the main island of Luzon, relief agencies said. Flo battered the island for three days starting Monday. President Fidel Ramos has declared a state of calamity in the flood-stricken areas. One of the worst hit areas was Bulacan province, on the northern outskirts of Manila, where damage to rice, vegetables and other crops was put at 500 pesos (\$17.8 million), Bulacan Governor Roberto Pagdanganan said. "It was the worst flood to hit our province in more than two decades," he said by telephone.

Transkei troops mobilise to protect whites after raid

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Transkei troops have been mobilised to patrol roads and white resorts and homes in the black homeland in anticipation of possible retaliation for a raid by South African soldiers on a house which left five black youths dead, reports said Sunday.

The Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) has vowed to strike back "where it hurts the most" to avenge the Friday's raid, sparking fears amongst the 10,000 whites living in Transkei.

The Sunday Star reported that Transkei army units and police had been mobilised to patrol major road routes.

In the pre-dawn Friday South African soldiers struck at the home of a Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) member and killed five youths, claiming they were trained members of APLA, the PAC's armed wing.

"We won't take this lying down. We'll respond in a manner which will be felt by the enemy," APLA spokesman in Transkei, Peter Mayende, was quoted as saying in the Saturday Star.

Thatcher worked against German unification — paper

LONDON (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher lobbied former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other world leaders in an unsuccessful attempt to block German unification, according to a British newspaper.

Reporting on what it said were extracts from her memoirs to be published by German magazine Der Spiegel, the Sunday Express said Mrs. Thatcher tried in 1989 to win backing for democratic elections in East Germany rather than rapid unification.

"Mrs. Thatcher's view was that Germany was hovering between aggression and self-doubt," the newspaper reported without quoting directly from the memoirs The Downing Street Years.

"She believed it was a mistake to treat the German question as too sensitive a subject for open discussion," the paper said.

Reports of Mrs. Thatcher's intervention on German unification do not appear in the official serialisation of the book in the rival Sunday Times. They are, however, expected to be covered in next week's instalment.

The book itself is being published on Oct. 18.

There have been a series of Thatcher articles in British papers apparently in an effort to steal a march on the Sunday Times' exclusive rights to the

Greek Socialists favoured to win poll

ATHENS (R) — Greeks voted Sunday in a general election that seemed likely to return veteran Socialist leader Andreas Papandreu to office four years after he lost power following personal health problems, scandal allegations and a controversial extramarital affair.

Mr. Papandreu, now 74, led public opinion polls by 6.7 percentage points in the run-up to Sunday's ballot.

His long-time rival, conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, also 74, trailed despite repeated predictions that returning the Socialist Pasok Party would bring disaster.

After a noisy night of car horn honking, flag waving and minor incidents among supporters of rival parties, polling opened at dawn and closed at sunset. A reliable trend in results is expected after 10:30 p.m. (2030 GMT).

There are 8,462,000 eligible voters 18 years and over out of an population of just over 10 million.

Police said one man was

injured and taken to hospital when he was shot in the chin during a clash in an Athens suburb.

Mr. Mitsotakis has said he would withdraw from politics if he lost Sunday. "If Papandreu is elected I will no longer have any services to offer the people and I will withdraw," he said.

Mr. Papandreu lost power after a series of personal events, including open-heart surgery, an extramarital affair with a young airline flight attendant and allegations of corruption. He has since softened his radical Socialist stance.

In a poll by the MRB Institute Wednesday, Pasok was favoured by 39.9 per cent of those questioned while just 33.2 said they would vote for Mr. Mitsotakis's New Democracy Party.

The survey indicated about 6.6 per cent of voters were still undecided and could yet produce a last-minute surprise.

Mr. Mitsotakis's month-long campaign tour of the country apparently failed to soothe public discontent after more

than three years of tough austerity measures.

In a campaign soured by personal attacks, New Democracy portrayed Mr. Papandreu as a weak, old man bringing nothing but more debts, taxes and a dangerous foreign policy.

His Pasok Party accused the conservative government of mud-slinging, dishonesty and tyranny.

Mr. Papandreu had irritated the United States and the European Community with his populist anti-NATO and anti-European Community rhetoric. Greece is a member of both the Atlantic alliance and the 12-nation EC.

While he did little to distance Greece from its Western allies in his eight years in power up to 1989, Mr. Papandreu spread EC subsidies around the poor Greek countryside and carried out popular welfare policies.

New Democracy decried his legacy of a near-bankrupt state, huge deficits and double-digit inflation when it assumed power.

tendency to accept the conventional wisdom.

But the lady deserved much stronger language for her deputy prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, whom she accused of "treachery" for triggering her downfall in November 1990 with a damning resignation speech to parliament.

Mrs. Thatcher's former financial minister, Nigel Lawson, who like Sir Geoffrey resigned because of a clash over policy, also comes in for tough criticism.

Conservative politicians said her remarks were not worthy of a major political figure.

"On the extracts we have seen today, it seems to be full of bile about everybody," said Lord Gilmour, sacked from Mrs. Thatcher's cabinet in 1981. "It is not very interesting slugging off your colleagues one after another."

Another former cabinet minister, David Mellor, said it would be better if Mrs. Thatcher had been less mean-spirited. The memoirs should be seen as comments on her state of mind, he said.

"It is very hard to see that she led a very relaxed or tranquil life with any of her colleagues. Everybody is mentioned in varying tones of disparagement," said former Defence Minister Alan Clark, who wrote his own memoirs on Life Under Mrs. Thatcher.

Fellini leaves hospital

FERRARA, Italy (AP) — Film director Federico Fellini left the hospital Saturday and headed for Rome to continue his recovery from a stroke in August. The 73-year-old Oscar winner was helped from the San Giorgio Rehabilitation Centre by staff members. "I have enjoyed the stay here," said Fellini as he left the facility in Ferrara, about 50 miles (80.5 kilometres) southwest of Venice. "I will return and look you up." Fellini plans to begin work early next year on his 21st feature film, *Black Notes Of A Director: The Actor*. His doctor, Gianfranco Turchetti, said movement in Fellini's left leg has improved but more therapy is needed on his left arm. Fellini had been scheduled to leave the hospital later this month but asked to return early to Rome, where he has his principal residence. Fellini won Oscars for his films *La Strada*, *The Nights of Cabiria*, *8½* and *Amarcord*.

Michael Jackson cancels Australian concert tour

SYDNEY (AFP) — U.S. pop music star Michael Jackson has cancelled his Australian concert tour scheduled for December which were part of his world tour, the entertainer's management said in a statement released here. In a statement, Jackson's management said "earlier postponements in the tour necessitated the complete revision of the itinerary. Unfortunately the Michael Jackson dates for Australia will not occur," the statement said. The statement also said it would be logistically impractical for the tour to be brought to Australia. Jackson's Australian promoter Kevin Jacobson said he was "pretty devastated" when he heard the news. "I think it's all over," he said. Mr. Jacobson said he did not believe the cancellation was related to earlier allegations against the singer of child sexual abuse, adding that Jackson was well and currently touring South America. Jackson called off two concerts in Bangkok last August citing "dehydration" and also pulled out of a further concert in Singapore after collapsing backstage.

Kennedy throws party for Teddy's wedding

NEW SHOREHAM, R.I. (AP) — The Kennedy clan, in country-western garb, square-danced and ate barbecued chicken Saturday during a pre-nuptial party thrown by Senator Edward Kennedy for his son and future daughter-in-law. "Everybody likes country music," said Melody Miller, a spokeswoman for the Kennedy family. "This is the opportunity for everyone to join in the celebration. There'll be lots of kisses and high-fives." The festivities, which were private, got under way late Saturday afternoon on the grounds of a Block Island mansion that faces the Atlantic Ocean. A white tent covered a wooden dance floor laid down on the mansion grounds for the hoedown. The protection wasn't needed as the wedding guests danced to tunes performed by the Captain Fiddle Square Dance Band under blue skies and temperatures in the 70s. The wedding of Edward "Ted" Kennedy Jr., the son of the Massachusetts Democrat, and Katherine Anne Gershman is planned for Sunday afternoon at St. Andrew Catholic Church. Mr. Kennedy, 32, met Gershman, 34, at Yale University, where she is an assistant professor of psychiatry. Mr. Kennedy is the director of the New Haven Lead Safe Home Project that works to provide services to children who suffer from lead poisoning.

Japan teenagers getting punier

TOKYO (R) — Japanese children are becoming punier through lack of exercise due to long hours of study and shortage of sports grounds, according to a government survey. The Education Ministry survey, quoted by Sunday newspapers, said young people were continuing to grow taller and heavier. But annual fitness tests for Japanese of all ages showed that most of those aged 10 to 19 did worse last year than for a decade in all tests. The ministry has conducted a nationwide survey since 1964 featuring tests such as high jumping, stepping from side to side, grip strength, softball hurling, a 50-metre dash and measuring the ability to arch one's back. Last year's survey covered 76,000 people between the ages of six and 59.

Banks welcome higher credit ceiling, see CBJ move as boosting confidence

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Bankers Sunday largely welcomed the relaxation of a ceiling on credits imposed by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and said that while the move did not herald any dramatic changes in the market it did help to build investor confidence in the Kingdom's economy.

The CBJ move meant banks could now extend around one per cent more of their actual loan exposure in the market regardless of an earlier CBJ curb that limited each bank's total lending not beyond 90 per cent of the deposits it holds or not more than 10 times its capital.

Economists meanwhile paid tribute to the CBJ for having convinced the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to relax its approach to the Jordanian commercial bank market.

In practical terms, commercial banks could now lend a total of JD60 million in the last quarter of this year, over and above a JD335 million for the entire year as set under an economic restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

A senior CBJ official said two weeks ago that the banks had already exceeded the ceiling in the first eight months of the year and hence the central bank was forced to impose the squeeze.

Addressing a seminar on Jordanian economy, Jamal Salah, executive director of the CBJ's research department, said that Jordan was trying to exempt credits extended for investment in new industries from the ceiling.

It was not immediately known whether the IMF's approval of a higher ceiling

was tied to loans for industrial investment already extended during the year.

But the credit restrictions imposed in July by the CBJ was mostly aimed at reducing commercial banks' involvement in the Amman stock market, an area which does not directly contribute to economic growth, bankers say.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, a noted economist and newspaper columnist, attributed the IMF's approval to the move made by CBJ governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi who took advantage of "the favourable atmosphere created by the presence and activities of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Washington and the successful contacts he made at the highest level with the American administration, the IMF and the World Bank."

Dr. Fanek was underlining what senior officials, including Finance Minister Sami Gammoo, have described as the highly positive outcome of the effort that Crown Prince Hassan made in the U.S. capital to present the Jordanian cause both in political as well as economic terms.

The most notable result was a specific pledge by U.S. President Bill Clinton to help Jordan's efforts to reduce its \$6.5 billion foreign debts.

Michel Marto, deputy governor of the CBJ, told Reuters Sunday of the IMF approval of the higher ceiling: "We felt there was more need for credit to the private sector ... and the fund agreed."

Dr. Fanek wrote in his weekly column in the Jordan Times Sunday that the IMF had reactivated Jordan's economic adjustment programme. He said the IMF had de-

clared the programme inoperative four months ago due to excessive lending and this had led to suspension of an \$80 million World Bank soft loan to Jordan.

In comments carried by Reuters, Dr. Marto denied the programme had been declared inoperative. He said the World Bank loan was approved on Oct. 7.

On the ground in Amman meanwhile commercial banks Sunday took stock of the overall impact of the addition to the ceiling on their lending.

Four banks had defaulted in meeting a Sept. 30 deadline to bring down their lending exposures to the limit set by the CBJ and they are not entitled to increase their credit facilities. Three others who had gone beyond the ceiling managed to adjust their positions before the deadline.

The others were not affected by the move, since their lending in the market remained very much within the limits even before the CBJ imposed the curbs.

Eddie Far, deputy area manager of the British Bank of the Middle East, welcomed the additional JD 60 million and said the amount "should take care of the market's needs in the last quarter of the year."

"The market is dull and stagnant at the moment," he added.

Adnan Sallak, regional manager for Grindlays Bank, said that the new availability may not be fully utilised because the banks had already readjusted their positions into the previous ceiling and that they do not normally extend huge amounts in credits in the last quarter of the year.

"In my opinion the market

does not need the funds right now, in the last three months of the year," he said.

"But the move helps build investors' confidence in the economy and market," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Sallak added, however, that some banks might not benefit at all from the move because of the distribution of the addition to the ceiling.

The CBJ move means that three per cent of the total amount of commercial bank credits in the market could be lent in the last three months of the year and each bank will have a share of the addition in proportion to its share in the total amount in the market, which bankers estimate at JD 2.3 billion.

Fozan Shukri of the Union Bank said his bank was not very happy with the arrangement. "It means that we have approval for an additional half a million dinars to be lent this year because we had brought down our involvement in the market before Sept. 30," he said.

"Our bank specialises in corporate finance — lending big amounts to big ventures," he said. "Half a million extra does not mean much to us since it is even less than the need of an average borrower that we deal with."

Such a complaint, also voiced by Mr. Sallak of Grindlays, however, could be dealt with only as part of an overall shift in commercial lending supported by the IMF as long as Jordan is committed to implementing the restructuring programme — again an inevitable process tied to the Kingdom's efforts to address its foreign debts — other bankers noted.



'COMEBACK': Socialist PASOK leader Andreas Papandreu flashes a double-handed Sunday (see page 8) as Greece's 8.4 million voters streamed through polling stations for the victory sign to supporters after casting his vote parliamentary elections (AFP photo)

Accused in sedition plot claim confessions given under torture

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times
MARKA — Four accused in a sedition plot on trial told the State Security Court Sunday that they were tortured into signing confessions.

The court heard the four describe how they were allegedly beaten and threatened into signing testimonies that a General Intelligence Department (GID) officer had drafted. The defendants accused the GID officer, whose name was mentioned by all the defendants but cannot be published, of threatening them with further torture and detention at the GID.

Ten men are being tried in the case, two of them in absentia. Five of them were cadets at Muta University, and another is a member of the Royal Escort Unit. The others, including the two at large, are described as leading activists of Hizb Al Tahrir (Islamic Liberation Party — ILP).

The 10 are accused by the military prosecution of conspiring to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein and replace the regime with a caliphate Islamic state. They are also charged with trying to change the Constitution through "illegal and violent means" and belonging to an illegal group, the ILP which is not a registered organisation in Jordan.

The first defendant admitted in court Sunday that he was a member of the ILP, but insisted that he knew nothing of the alleged plot and that he and his party never believed in or advocated violence to achieve any political aim.

In a one-hour testimony, the defendant said that he had been living in Germany since 1975 and was arrested upon his arrival at Amman airport in May. He said his family had told him over the phone that the GID had asked for him, but had thought it was a minor problem that could be solved once he arrived.

He told the court that he was tortured by a GID officer, who beat him with a bamboo stick for one and a half hours after he denied any knowledge of membership of any soldiers in the ILP.

"I was then left without questioning for 55 days in cell number 10. I stayed up some nights listening to the screaming of detainees being tortured," said the defendant, a civil engineer, who added that he heard the name of the member of the Royal Escort Unit being repeated by the officers.

A map of the GID prisons by Amnesty International shows that "cell number 10" is located near what the defendants called the "torture square" and a corridor where alleged torture of detainees takes place.

The first defendant said he was beaten on the soles of his feet again after he denied to

the GID interrogator that he was accused of plotting to kill the King, "and I told him it was against my principles and beliefs."

The bearded and bald defendant went on to say that the same GID officer had "three times sworn to execute me and promised he would personally attend my execution."

This suspect, and the other three who testified on Sunday, said their testimonies to Prosecutor Major Mohamad Hazi were drawn up the first time "on the sixth floor of the GID," and attended by the GID officer in question.

Presiding Judge Colonel Hafez Amin asked them in court if they had told the prosecutor that they were beaten, they replied they did not, either because the GID officer was present or they did not know who Maj. Hazi was.

The defendants were not questioned by their lawyers, who asked questions through the court "for clarification purposes."

The defendants had to respond to Maj. Hazi's cross-examination, where he tried to establish that he had not tried to force the testimonies on any of them, and that he had given them a chance to change their testimonies after they were transferred to the Zarqa military prison.

But the defendants either denied that the prosecutor asked them if they wanted to give new testimonies or insisted that they were afraid of what they called the "threats of the GID officer."

"He swore I would be back at the GID prison if I changed the first testimony," said one defendant.

The accused said they were not read out their testimonies and that they had not looked at them. They also maintained that they did not know they had a right to a lawyer and that they were discouraged by the prosecutor, who, they said, told them, "lawyers cost too much money, the state will appoint one for you."

They all said they were detained for one month at the GID before being charged by the interrogators. The second defendant, a small bearded imam of a mosque, said that he "gave in" to whatever the GID officers had wanted him to do after the beatings he "consistently suffered for one month."

"If he (GID officer) told me my name was different from mine, I would have agreed with him at that point," the imam said, adding that the officer constantly cursed him and his tribe.

"They made me walk on my hands and knees as an officer sat on my back and beat me with a stick," he claimed, adding that he sometimes fell unconscious "in the torture square" and woke up in his cell.

"When I saw the lawyers for the first time at Zarqa prison, I

thought they were Mukhabarat (GID) until I saw Saleh Al Fayed (one of the lawyers)," the imam told the court as spectators burst out laughing.

The defendant said he had gone to the first defendant to take lessons in Islam, but that he had not benefited from the lessons and signed with a course given by the Awqaf.

The prosecution has charged that the first and second defendants were members of the ILP and had recruited the member of the Royal Escort Unit to recruit students at Muta University, a military academy south of Amman, to plot to assassinate the King at a graduation ceremony on June 26.

The member of the Royal Escort Unit testified that he too was repeatedly tortured by a number of GID officers.

"Immediately after my arrest, 10 officers took turns beating me 24 hours a day for 10 days," he asserted.

He claimed that a doctor at the GID had checked him, and then he was allowed to spend some time in his cell where he was allegedly given pills to keep him awake before he was taken to the "torture square" again.

"I began to urinate in my pants without feeling it, and I still do," said the 23-year-old defendant, adding that he was threatened with sodomy if he did not sign the testimony.

Maj. Hijiati tried to establish during his cross-examination that the defendant had taken a strong fall during his training last year when he was a student at Muta University, and that he had medical problems before he was arrested.

Waving papers in his hand, Maj. Hijiati said: "These university reports show you fell on your back and suffered bad injuries. Did you not have a problem with uncontrollable urination before you were arrested?" The defendant denied both.

The fourth defendant, a Muta University cadet, also claimed he was consistently beaten at the GID by the same officer named by the others. He said the officer had stripped him and threatened to shove a stick in his rectum if he did not sign a testimony that tied him to the plot to kill the King. He also maintained that the officer threatened him with a "stray bullet."

During cross-examination, Maj. Hijiati tried to establish that the "signs of torture" on the defendant's face were self-inflicted.

The defendant denied he had beaten his head against the cell door, but admitted that he had tried to commit suicide once "with the string of the blanket." When Col. Amin asked him why he tried to kill himself, he said, "because of the injustice I saw at the hands of a Jordanian institution against a Jordanian citizen."

The court will hear of the defendants' on Tuesday.

COLUMN

Court throws out Quayle drug lawsuit

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. court said a prison inmate could not sue authorities on charges they prevented him from telling the press in 1988 he had once sold marijuana to Dan Quayle. Brett Kimberlin charged he had been denied access to the press unconstitutionally and that his right to due process under the law had been violated when prison officials kept him from holding a news conference just days before the 1988 election, when Mr. Quayle was elected George Bush's vice president. The appeals court, sitting with the U.S. Justice Department, overruled an earlier ruling that would have allowed the suit by Mr. Kimberlin in seeking damages in the suit, which charges prison officials put him in solitary confinement just days before the 1988 election on direct orders of the U.S. prisons chief — an appointee of Mr. Quayle's Republican Party. After consulting with officials from the Bush-Quayle campaign, prison authorities put Mr. Kimberlin in solitary after learning that he was about to hold a news conference to allege that he sold marijuana to Mr. Quayle back in 1971. Mr. Quayle has denied Mr. Kimberlin's charges.

Diana's stepmother denies reports of rocky marriage

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's stepmother has denied media reports that her three-month-old marriage to a French aristocrat was on the rocks. Raine, the Countess Spencer, married Jean-Francois de Chambrun in July after a romance only 13 months after the death of her husband Earl Spencer; Diana's father. Reports in the tabloid press and gossip magazines have spoken of rows over money and say that family and friends of the couple were convinced the marriage was over after the couple went on separate trips abroad. A statement issued through their solicitors said: "The count and countess wish it to be known that they are very happily married and any rumours to the contrary are entirely without foundation. They would be grateful to be left alone to build their new life together." Raine, 64, is the daughter of British romantic novelist Dame Barbara Cartland. She lives in France with her third husband. The cream of European aristocracy were among 250 guests who drank champagne and dined on lobster and roast quail at their wedding reception reported to have cost £30,000 (\$45,000). But Princess Diana did not attend the wedding and Mr. Chambrun felt obliged to write to the Times newspaper to deny she had disowned her stepmother.

De Klerk's son marries white Afrikaner

CAPE TOWN (R) — Willem De Klerk, youngest son of South African President F. W. De Klerk, married white Afrikaner Hermien Mostert in a formal ceremony at a Calvinist Church in Cape Town. Mr. Willem caused a stir two years ago when he became engaged to a black fellow student, Erika Adams. His mother Marika opposed the match and the relationship broke down last year. Under the apartheid system for classifying races, Ms. Adams was a coloured, a person of mixed descent — group Marika De Klerk once described as "non-people ... the leftovers of creation." President De Klerk attended the ceremony in the Groote Kerk in Cape Town. Neither he nor Mr. Willem would say where the couple will spend their honeymoon.

Polish student crowned Miss International

TOKYO (AFP) — Nineteen-year-old Polish Agnieszka Pachalko was crowned Miss International 1993 in Tokyo Saturday. Ms. Pachalko, who said she wants to be a cardiologist, is 1.78 metres (five feet 11 inches) tall and weighs 55 kilograms (121 pounds). Runners up were Ilmira Sharova, 17, of Russia, and Nataliya Victorovna, 17, of Ukraine. A total of 47 women took part in the annual contest, officials said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel could have murdered Arafat — Peres

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Israel could have murdered Yasser Arafat long ago — but did not. Mr. Peres was reacting to reports of an alleged attempt on Mr. Arafat's life by Palestinian opponents to a peace accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel. "First of all, I hope no one will murder Arafat. Why would they murder him? Even we never shot him, we could have murdered him, as it was reported in the newspapers," he told army radio. A senior PLO official said on Saturday assassins tried to blow up a plane carrying Mr. Arafat two weeks ago. Mr. Peres said he would not wish for the murder of anyone anywhere, but he said the historic Israeli-PLO accord was in any event between two peoples — not individuals. "Relations between peoples don't depend on a single person. It's an agreement between peoples, I repeat, not an agreement with a person, not an agreement with a leadership, not from our side and not from their side."

Islamic hardliners protest U.S. products

TEHRAN (AFP) — A group of disabled Iranian war veterans opposed to ties with the United States have protested the presence of U.S. products at the Tehran fair. The group appeared Tuesday in front of the presidential complex in Tehran and called for a "severe response to those who paved the way for the return" of American corporations to Iran. Kayhan newspaper said. The veterans of the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, who visited the 19th International Tehran Fair Tuesday, were "angered" by the display of industrial and household goods made by General Motors and Admiral, it said. The veterans were doubly offended when they were offered at the booth small American flags as gifts, it said. Iran and the United States broke ties in 1980 after U.S. diplomats were taken hostage by Iranian radicals, but the two countries have boosted trade in recent years and American companies were represented in this year's fair by Iranian firms.

Egypt to open Gaza border 24 hours a day

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will keep its border with the Gaza Strip open 24 hours a day to cope with a sharp rise in traffic expected as a result of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace agreement with Israel. Al-Ahram newspaper reported on Sunday. The newspaper quoted security officials as saying extra police had been drafted in to deal with the increased flow expected at the Rafah crossing point, which connects Egypt to the 800,000 Palestinians living in the narrow, crowded strip. The crossing, manned by Israeli and Egyptian border police, is currently open about seven hours a day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is also closed on some Egyptian and Israeli national holidays. Al-Ahram did not say when the extended hours would go into effect.

Roadsigns un-Islamic — Iran newspaper

TEHRAN (AFP) — Dozens of "beware of children crossing" signs which have been sprouting up all over Tehran drew sharp criticism from a conservative newspaper Saturday — for being in violation of Islamic principles. The roadsigns, which, like similar warnings the world over, show the silhouette of a pigtailed girl clutching the hand of a small boy as they run across a street, are "offensive" because the girl is not draped in the Islamic cloak, the Jomhuri Eslami newspaper said. The signs, which are being mounted all over the city in an attempt by the council to reduce the casualty rate among pedestrians caused by Tehran's famously exuberant drivers, reflected badly on Iranian society, the newspaper said. "Roadsigns reflect the culture of a society," the newspaper wrote. "We ask ourselves if the Islamic cloak, as recommended by the government, can in fact be seen on these signs." All schoolgirls must wear the cloak and veil as part of their school uniform, as stipulated by the Islamic decrees enforced after the 1979 revolution here. Women and girls are not allowed to display their hair in public under Islamic law.

Egypt says it foils plot to kill dissident

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have foiled a plot by Muslim militants in prison to assassinate the leader of a rival group, the Interior Ministry said. In a statement late Saturday, the ministry said militants in Tora, near Cairo, passed a message to colleagues on the outside to kill a former colleague, Hamdi Abdul Rahim, who split from his group. It did not mention which militant group the plotters belong to.

State security officers said the suspects, named as Mohammad

Abdul Meguid, Antar Al Zayyat and Nabil Mohammad Salem, confessed to the plot, saying they passed the message through Mr. Salem's 13-year-old brother when he visited the prison. Security sources say there are signs of at least two main militant groups operating in a wave of political violence which killed more than 200 people since March last year. When the violence broke out last year, it was led largely by Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which attacked Christians, foreign tourists and police from their base in Upper Egypt. More than 200 suspects were arrested earlier this year and are now being tried on charges of attempting to revive the Jihad group. Jihad killed President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and was then crushed in a police crackdown.

'Pictures of El Al crash plane suppressed'

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Photos taken shortly before an El Al Boeing 747 crashed after takeoff from Amsterdam in October last year killing 43 people, show the plane was in a bad condition before it left the ground, experts said Saturday. The photographer who took the pictures has also claimed that air accident investigators told him to keep quiet about them. The amateur pictures, sent to the Dutch independent television station RTL4, showed that the number three engine of the aircraft "was hanging badly askew," experts told a news programme on the channel. The cargo plane lost two of its engines shortly after take-off from Schiphol airport, and then crashed into two blocks of flats in an Amsterdam suburb, killing 43 and injuring 36. An aircraft fanatic, Michael Bertholet, took the pictures shortly before the plane landed after flying from New York, and a few hours before it took off again. His father, a professional photographer, developed the photos and sent them to government air transport investigators. Both of them were subsequently interviewed by investigators. But, they said, they were told to keep quiet about the pictures. They decided to send them to RTL4 ahead of the publication of an official report into the crash by the Dutch aviation council, due next Thursday. Boeing and El Al who have seen the pictures, considered them not of value of their inquiries, RTL4 said. But aviation experts interviewed by the station disagreed. At the time of the crash press reports said the aircraft had been delayed in arriving for a refueling stop in Amsterdam because of technical problems in New York. Maintenance officials at Schiphol, questioned as a result, said that the plane had been put through the usual checks before taking off again.

Rafsanjani to visit Central Asian states

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to begin a tour of four Central Asian countries next week in the first official visit by an Iranian president to the region, the Tehran Times newspaper reported Sunday. Mr. Rafsanjani's visits to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan are aimed at boosting bilateral ties with each country and to explore ways to expand economic cooperation, the English-language daily said. The president will be accompanied by a high-level political and economic delegation, including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Economic Minister Morteza Mohammad Khan and Transportation Minister Akbar Toran. The paper said Iran could assist the newly-independent states to develop their communication networks, notably their roads, for better links to Iran and access to the sea. It also said the Islamic republic could serve as a bridge for regional as well as East Asian countries, such as Japan and Malaysia, to make investments in the former Soviet republics and have access to their "rich markets." The four countries are members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), which was created by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan and was joined in 1992 by all of the Central Asian states.

Algerian professor shot dead at hospital

ALGIERS (AP) — A medical professor staunchly opposed to Islamic fundamentalism was shot and killed Sunday by three men lying in wait outside his hospital clinic. Dr. Djillali Belkhenchir, 52, a pediatric specialist, was killed by one bullet to the head and three to the body, the Health Ministry announced in a communique read on state television and radio. Dr. Belkhenchir had been summoned to the clinic by a phony false emergency call. The killers fled in a car parked nearby. The killing was not claimed, but it bore the hallmarks of extremists who have increasingly targeted intellectuals opposed to their goal of establishing an Islamic state in Algeria.

دولت، می پند